thecentralvoice.ning.com

Central VOICE

FREE

MARCH/APRIL 2011

Ralliers Came Out, Thompson Stayed In

Teachable Moments When Words Matter

By Frank Pizzoli

When news broke Feb. 3 that Chuck Ardo resigned as Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson's spokesman, moods around the capitol city were as heavy as the $288 million debt faced by the city.

Ardo was the mayor's third spokesperson in 13 months.

By Feb. 9 Ardo went public with his now well circulated statements that Thompson had referred to openly-gay, elected City Controller Dan Miller as "that homosexual, evil little man."

A son of Holocaust survivors, Ardo told of potential city investors being referred to as "Israel money."

That same day the mayor's first, now former, communications director, Joyce Davis, hit the airwaves on WGAL 8 calling on those close to the beleaguered mayor to intercede.

And, again that same day, former Harrisburg School District spokesperson Lisa Paige, surfaced as lead organizer of the Valentine's Day city hall rally that drew about 250 people who called on Thompson to resign.

"What is she teaching our children?" Paige asked Central Voice. "Stop the madness or go away. The public arena is not the place for these views. Hold them in private."

The day before Ardo and Paige went public, Harrisburg City Solicitor Phil Harper resigned, citing "philosophical differences" with the mayor.

"I would hope that the mayor recognizes her philosophical biases have been a hindrance," Ardo told CV in reference to his own city hall tenure.

"She clearly has a problem with [Miller's homosexuality,]" Ardo said.

Having served as spokesperson for former Gov. Ed Rendell, who marched in Pride

Continued on page 30

Issue Analysis:

What Can You Expect?

Politics moving forward

By Frank Pizzoli

Fresh off a round of statewide meetings - Bethlehem, Wilkes Barre, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Erie, Pittsburgh - co-hosted by The Human Rights Campaign and ACLU-PA, Equality PA's Ted Martin shares with Central Voice his focus for what's ahead politically. EP statewide organizer Allyson Diane Hamm also joined the town hall meetings.

As an example of what Martin sometimes hears around the state, he pointed out that lgbt members of his audience might say "We weren't the issue in the last national election." He advises "Don't let down your guard."

Martin may sometimes hear from an elected official "There are no gay people in my electoral district." He reminds them with his diplomatic tone "Yes, there are."

> "Don't let down your guard."
> - Ted Martin

Moving forward in Pennsylvania and nationally, the lgbt community and its allies face a mosaic of challenges. Unlike well-funded opposition groups, the gay community is diffuse and tends to rely on its equally diffuse leadership to provide information and to carry out what's needed in order to achieve basic civil rights.

CV: What can the lgbt community expect in the political arena for 2011-12?

M: I think that the community can expect to play a lot of defense in the coming two years. While the appetite for anti-lgbt legislation appears to be slightly less aggressive than in the past, no-one should take

Continued on page 31

MORE INSIDE:
Wash it
see p. 7

CLUB XS
SATURDAY, MARCH 5
MARDI GRAS
Best mask contest • $250 cash prize
$3 Three Olives Vodka until midnight
Guest DJ Seth Gold & Nite Camp Dancers
18+ to Party, 21+ to Drink
Scan with your smartphone to add this event to your calendar.
Saturday, March 19
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
• Tons of Green Beads & Beer
• $3 Three Olives Vodka until midnight
• $5 Cover Charge
MISS GAY YORK AMERICA PAGEANT 2011
FRIDAY, APRIL 29
• Admission is just $5.00
• Table reservations are $10.00 for a table of 4 (call 717-846-6969)
GAY AMERICA PAGEANTS
36 W 11th Ave • York, PA 17404 • 717.846.6969 • clubxs@gmail.com • www.clubxsyork.com

The 2010 Elections: *What it Means for Equality*

There is ongoing debate about what last November's results really turned on – was it the economy, or frustration with the slow pace of change, or is it altogether unrealistic to claim that any one single issue is responsible for the results we saw?

What is beyond dispute is that whatever voters' reasons were for their decisions this year, those decisions will have consequences across a range of issues where Republicans are growing increasingly out of step with the broader American public.

One of those issues is equal rights. The last two years saw incredible progress at the state level on equal rights, and with a few critical exceptions, it seems likely that progress can be protected:

California: Equality supporters scored a symbolic victory in Democrat Richard Pan's Assembly victory over Proposition 8 author Andy Pugno in a conservative-leaning GOP open seat. The nature of the district and the GOP candidate's close identification with the anti-equality movement sent a clear signal that even in a Republican year, voters do not want to be governed by right-wing ideologues.

Thanks to Dr. Pan's win, California Democrats increased their majority in the Assembly by one seat and held their margin in the Senate. With these majorities and the Democrats' gubernatorial victory, further progress on equality appears likely in the coming years.

Connecticut: Democrats suffered minor losses in both the state Senate and state House, slipping barely below veto-proof majorities in both chambers. But a Democratic gubernatorial win means the returning Democratic majorities are more than sufficient. Connecticut already became a marriage equality state through a 2008 court decision and legislative action in 2009, but progress on other equal rights issues is still possible.

Delaware: This state passed its first anti-discrimination law in 2009, and it was another state where Democrats increased their state House majority, picking up three seats to take a 26-15 majority. They lost a seat in the Senate, dropping to 14-7, but both majorities are now over the 3/5 margin needed to overturn vetoes. Regardless, with a popular Democratic governor elected in 2008, further progress on equal rights seems likely.

Hawaii: Site of the cycle's last major battle over equal rights – a civil unions bill ultimately vetoed by the Republican Governor, thus breaking her earlier promise – Hawaii Democrats lost only two state House seats and captured one of the GOP's only two state Senate seats. Both chambers remain the most lopsidedly Democratic in the country, and incoming Democratic Governor Neil Abercrombie has promised to sign the civil unions bill if passed again.

As an added bonus, Democratic state Rep. Blake Oshiro, the driving force behind last year's civil unions bill, was re-elected in a landslide, ensuring that equal rights will continue to have a strong champion in the legislature. Further progress on equality appears extremely likely.

Illinois: Democrats retained their majorities in both Illinois legislative chambers, while the gubernatorial election delivered a popular mandate for the state's incumbent Democratic Governor. Following those results, legislators passed the state's first law providing for same-sex civil unions, which will be signed early this year.

Iowa: Despite losing the state House, Iowa Senate Democrats led by DLCC Chairman Mike Gronstal have maintained their majority in the state Senate. As Senate Majority Leader, Gronstal has the sole authority to decide which bills are brought to a vote, and Senator Gronstal has already reiterated his 2009 promise that he will "Never" allow a vote on a constitutional amendment repealing civil marriage equality.

This adds at least another two years to the timeline for any state constitutional amendment in Iowa – even if Republicans re-take the chamber in 2012, the first election after redistricting, the earliest an amendment could reach the ballot would be 2015. With a Republican House and Governor, further progress on equal rights appears unlikely, but thanks to Senator Gronstal, backsliding looks all but impossible.

As an added bonus, openly-gay Senator Matt McCoy was re-elected despite enduring an outrageous smear campaign by his GOP opponent, who labled McCoy the Senate's "chief sodomite" and accused him of trying to spread HIV through handshakes (which, by the way, is medically impossible). Bigotry may not be gone, but it was certainly dealt a setback with McCoy's landslide re-election.

Maine: Democrats were dealt major setbacks in Maine, losing control of both the state House, state Senate, and the Governorship. But the state House margin is an extremely narrow 72-78-1, and since Maine voters already narrowly approved a ballot measure repealing the state's marriage equality law in 2009, it's unclear how aggressively Republicans will go in seeking to repeal other laws important to the LGBT community, such as the state's civil unions law, its law permitting joint adoptions, or its hate crimes statute. This is a state of concern.

Maryland: Maryland Democrats actually expanded their majorities in both legislative chambers and re-elected the state's Democratic governor by a wide margin. Because of those results and some internal changes to the legislature's committee membership, equality advocates believe they are in a strong position to push for full civil marriage equality. Further progress here appears extremely likely.

Nevada: After overturning a gubernatorial veto to enact the state's first civil unions law, Democrats maintained their majorities in both legislative chambers – a narrow 11-10 lead in the state Senate and a wider 26-16 lead in the state Assembly. But without their previous veto-proof Assembly majority and facing a larger, more conservative GOP Senate caucus, further progress will be difficult but not impossible.

New Hampshire: This state formed the tip of the spear for the Democrats' 2006 rout, delivering major upsets and gains of 6 seats and 84 seats in the state Senate and House, respectively. That was again the case this year, except in the other direction, leaving Republicans with a 5-19 majority in the state Senate and a 102-298 majority in the state House, more than enough seats to overturn vetoes by Democratic Governor John Lynch.

That makes New Hampshire an area of extreme concern for equal rights, because the state's marriage equality law was only enacted in 2009. And with so many GOP defections needed to sustain a veto, Republicans could potentially target any of the state's laws that are important to the LGBT community, including adoption laws, hate crimes laws, and anti-discrimination laws. This is a state of concern.

New Jersey: The only competitive legislative election in New Jersey was a state Senate special election in which Democrat Linda Greenstein, a marriage equality supporter and frequent target of social conservative organizations, defeated a GOP appointee who opposes marriage equality. If there was going to be a backlash against the state Senate's January marriage vote, which unfortunately failed, it would have been felt in this race. And while that bodes well for future votes on equality, the presence of a Republican governor will make further progress difficult.

New York: Republicans won control of the New York Senate by a single seat this year, and Senate Republicans unanimously opposed marriage equality in 2009. Nevertheless, it is believed that the returning Democratic caucus is more cohesive on Equal Rights, and the possibility of a more favorable Senate redistricting plan for 2012 make progress over the intermediate term much more likely.

Rhode Island: Despite losing a relative handful of legislative seats, Democrats retained their commanding majorities in both legislative chambers. And now that the state's GOP governor (who vetoed even a modest bill to grant funeral planning rights to same-sex domestic partners) has been replaced with an Independent governor calling for full civil marriage equality, progress on equal rights seems extremely likely here.

Vermont: One of several states to pass full civil marriage equality in 2009, Vermont re-elected overwhelming Democratic majorities in both state legislative chambers in 2010, as well as electing a new Democratic Governor. Further progress on equal rights appears likely.

Washington: Democrats have retained both of their legislative majorities in Washington, which passed a robust civil unions law in 2009. Equality opponents attempted to overturn the law through a ballot initiative, but the law was narrowly upheld. With Democrats narrowly ahead in both chambers and with a Democratic governor, further progress on equal rights is certainly possible, but after the close result of the civil unions ballot initiative, legislators are likely to give voters time to grow accustomed to civil unions.

Wisconsin: Wisconsin successfully passed a civil unions law in 2009, though previous state laws banning same-sex marriage (and imprisoning for nine months anyone who contracts a same-sex marriage out of state) remain on the books. Democrats lost the governorship and their narrow majorities in both legislative chambers in 2010, putting the civil unions statute and other laws important to the LGBT community at risk.

Overall, despite the Republicans' strong national showing in 2010, they significantly underperformed in states that were at the forefront of the battle for equal rights in 2009 and 2010. There are at least 8 states where further progress on equal rights is unquestionably more likely because of the 2010 elections, and only three new states that are in legitimate danger of backsliding away from equal rights laws passed in 2009 and 2010. In terms of policy consequences, equal rights advocates at the state level may find that they dodged a major bullet this cycle.

Central VOICE
Central to your life.

Publisher & Editor
Frank Pizzoli
PosOps@aol.com

Correspondents
Christopher Tittel, Key West
Winnie McCroy, New York City
Michael Petrelis, San Francisco

Contributing Writers
Leo Dunn

Columnists
Diane Silver, Q Syndicate
Andrew Collins, Q Syndicate

Sales Manager
Dave Brown
davebrown@pressandjournal.com

Advertising Representative
Steve Kozokas
stevek@pressandjournal.com

National Advertising:
RIVENDELL MEDIA
212-242-6863

PUBLISHED BY
Press And Journal, Inc.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA
717-944-4628
www.pandjinc.com
info@pressandjournal.com

MEMBER: Pennsylvania Newspaper Association

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

publisher's note

Never Discuss Politics or Religion

Frank Pizzoli

Remember the saying "Never discuss politics or religion"? I recall that advice from my father, an uncle, and later in life a dear friend. They didn't literally mean one should never talk about faith or one's political leanings.

As I remember their explanation, it went something like this: When we go to the school building or the volunteer fire company for a town meeting, there will be lots of different people there. They will go to different churches. They will be from different ethnic backgrounds. Their favorite foods will be different. And everyone's grandma makes the best something or other.

When we go to a town meeting, it's usually because there's a problem of one sort or another that needs our attention. There will be as many different ways to solve the problem as there are different people in the room. That is a good thing because we need to hear from everyone how they think we might take care of business. And then we will all go back to our various ways of living in and among and with each other, or not, even though we're all different.

My uncle used to say "A new fire truck will fight any fire you drive it to." He meant, of course, that the truck doesn't see "different". It just fights fires by the guiding hands of volunteer men who run when they hear the whistle blow. Yes, it was that long ago. They were all men. They literally ran from the comfort of their homes and loving families because they knew their help was needed. They heeded the call. And when they heard that shrill noise, cranked out each evening at 6 p.m. so kids knew it was time to head home, they knew without any hesitation their help was needed. No questions asked. Just run, jump on the truck and get it done. As flames devoured a wood frame home, they didn't have time to wonder about or question a guy's religion or politics. That was not the moment or the time or the place. "That's how things get done. If it wasn't that way, nothing would ever get accomplished," my father would tell me.

Imagine if before a community could act to build a wall of sandbags to staunch a flood,

they had to vet everyone who wanted to help. To be certain all the helpers were identical. What should be checked anyway? Hair color? Education? Acne? By the time the task is completed, rushing water will have washed everyone away.

Maybe different qualities people bring to a community process are that extra touch needed to insure success. Maybe because they're different – in experience, outlook, and bag of tricks – they can add to a solution. Or suggest a way to proceed no one else has thought of yet. Sometimes everything needs to be discussed. No thought to small. No thought to big for consideration.

As a nation, we've always said our diversity makes us strong. When we look for makes us the same rather than looking for what makes us different, we have done incredible things.

These "never discuss religion or politics" example seems fitting for the seemingly never-ending trails and tribulations of the Keystone State's capitol city of Harrisburg. Putting aside our differences – religious, political, sexual, book club selections and favorite pizza – is the keystone that will hold up all the other bricks of plausible solutions to Harrisburg's massive debt.

Right now, it's about the debt and finding long-term ways to never again have this same experience. We need to hear from all precincts of the city. From top to bottom, left to right, rich and poor. From those who vote and those who don't. From White, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender. And from White Gay folks, Black Gay folks, Hispanic Lesbians, and Transgender Asians. Well, you can readily see how keeping track of "different" becomes an endless – and meaningless – endeavor. There's a fire burning. We've all heard the alarm by now. Let's work together to dowse the flames.

letters to the editor

Support

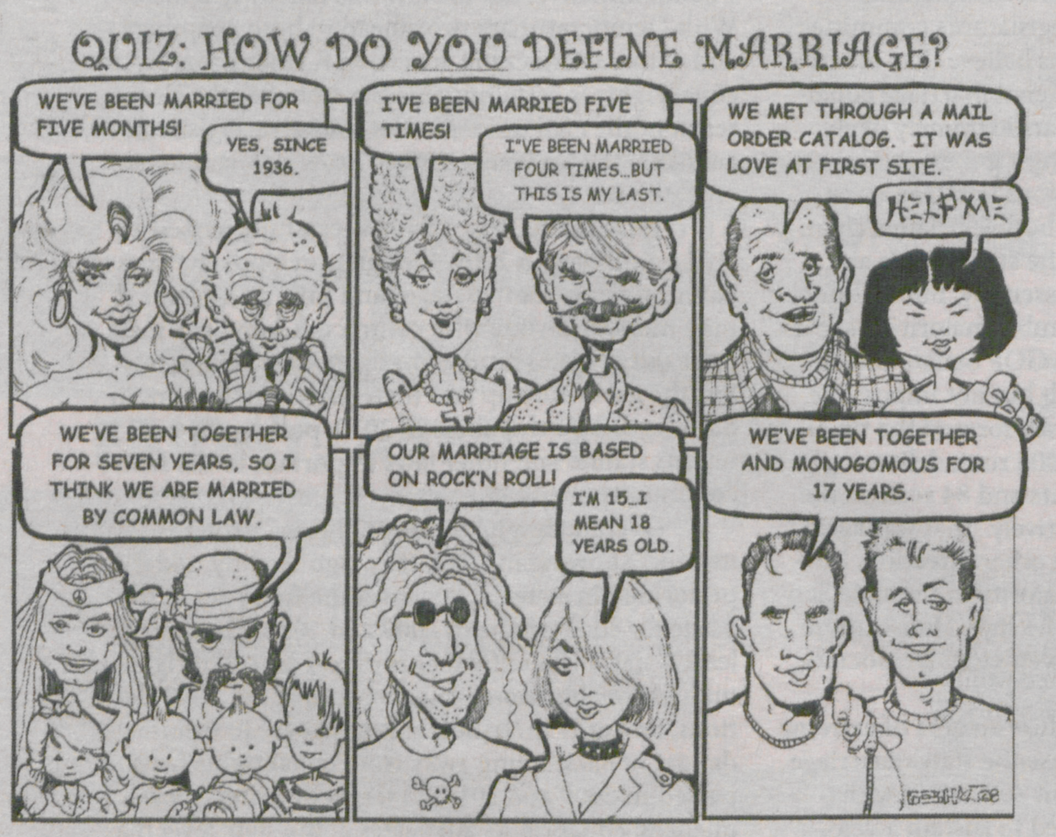
Once again, thank you so very much for your support. It is because of you that we are able to bring greater attention to the needs and concerns of the lgbt community.

Cathy Nelson
LGBT Freedom Week PA

Thanks

Thanks for the opportunity to share my story.

Quentin Eshleman



voice box

Presidential

Anyone else wishing Hillary Clinton had taken the nomination? I like President Obama but she would have fought right back and maybe won on a national health care system, federal ENDA.

Blogga via Central Voice

Harrisburg's Mayor

I cannot accept bigotry in government, especially from a Democrat, we don't represent that.

Mid-stater who joined opponents of Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson to call for her resignation at a February 14th rally

For more comments from rally-goers visit Central Voice's website: www.thecentralvoice.ning.com

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Civility: Left's Code Word of the Day

By Lowman S. Henry

President Harry S. Truman was known for his blunt talk. Much of that blunt talk was aimed at Republicans in Congress who were frequently at odds with the man from Missouri. Truman turned the GOP into an election issue, using strident language that earned him the nickname "Give 'em hell Harry." Truman declined the moniker famously saying "I never give them hell, I just tell the truth and they think its hell."

The same can be said today about the supposed lack of civility in our state and national discourse. The Left has worked itself into a lather lately claiming Republicans, TEA partiers, and their allies in the conservative media lack civility. They even crassly attempted to claim the recent shooting in Arizona resulted from right wing rhetoric. The fact is the tone is not uncivil, conservatives are simply telling the truth and liberal elite think its hell.

Have you noticed that the new push for civility began after Democrats took a drubbing in last November's election? Before that the code word was change; meaning the enactment of the President's socialist agenda. And no, it is not uncivil to label the President and his agenda as socialist because, in truth, that is what it is: soft, European-style socialism.

Now that Democrats have lost their monopoly on power in Washington, and are out of power in Harrisburg, they want to be civil and bi-partisan. Make no mistake about it this has nothing to do with being nice to each other. It has nothing to do with changing the tone of the debate. It has everything to do with the liberal progressives trying to find a way to blunt the "shellacking" they took at the polls last November.

Simply put, civility is a code word for getting conservative Republicans to give up by compromise what they won at the polls last November. Republicans, at both the state and national levels, should not allow themselves to be swayed by the civility craze. The Left is not seeking civility. It is seeking to protect its legislative gains of the past two years and to keep Republicans from restoring our free enterprise system.

There has been a lot of commentary over the recent flare up in the state House of Representatives between Majority Leader Mike Turzai and minority Democrats. It seems the Democrats are having difficulty adjusting to their diminished circumstances in that chamber. They called Turzai names like "Monarch Mike" while proclaiming "welcome to the gulag." Certainly that was uncivil behavior. But so what? If Democratic legislators want to act like children, let them. It's not like they are Hamilton and Burr having a pistol duel on State Street.

Lost in the media uproar over the testy exchange among legislators is the fact that Republicans are attempting to move a reform agenda that many Democrats oppose. Having taken majority control in the chamber Republicans have a right to set the rules and the agenda, just like the Democrats did when they were in charge. But, lacking the votes, Democrats provoked an uproar that provided fodder for the civility crowd. The tactic: get Republicans to back down in the name of civility.

Republicans should not let Democratic temper tantrums, or pious media calls for civility deter them from their course. The fact is voters sent Republicans to both Washington and Harrisburg to put our country and our commonwealth back on track. This was bound to create conflict with the hold-over Left on the Democratic side and to some degree the establishment Republicans who will fight to keep the status quo.

While we are all Americans, we have serious differences over how our nation should be governed. It is not uncivil to debate these differences. Interestingly, those who sat silently while former President George W. Bush was called everything from a Nazi to a war criminal now find it uncivil for a TEA partier to protest against nationalized health care.

Let us not fall prey to the latest fad in political correctness. It is not that we need to be mean, childish, or rude, but the American people have spoken and the GOP must now produce a change in direction. That simple truth may seem like an uncivil hell to some, but in actuality it is simply the truth and they think it is hell.

Lowman S. Henry is Chairman & CEO of the Lincoln Institute and host of the weekly Lincoln Radio Journal.
Contact: lhenry@lincolninstitute.org

Sierra Club Message to Governor Corbett

Dear Governor Corbett:

The Marcellus drilling boom has swept across Pennsylvania before our government became aware of it. Permits were issued and drilling expedited before protections were in place to determine how much water could be withdrawn from our streams, how to safely drill for gas, how to dispose of wastewater and dispose of the solid waste. The state was not prepared for the onslaught. As a result, thousands of permits were issued before the problems you read about in the newspapers were revealed. These problems include a gas well explosion in Clearfield County, which led DEP to impose requirements on operation of blow out preventers; the contamination of drinking water wells in Dimock and in other counties due to poor casing and cementing of the wells; the accident which killed two workers across the border in West Virginia; the spills that ruined a stream in Greene County; the spills from overflowing lagoons; the lack of wastewater infrastructure to treat Marcellus wastewater; the Pennsylvania State Police finding that 40% of trucks serving the Marcellus industry had safety violations; and the destruction of rural roads by heavy trucks.

If we can't protect our communities and natural resources, then we should not drill for natural gas.

We need strong regulation and government oversight that will make drilling safe.

We ask you to:

1. Put a hold on drilling until state government enacts laws and regulations to make Marcellus gas well drilling safe and environmentally sound.
2. Reform the Oil and Gas Act to require mandatory inspections, require disclosure of fracking chemicals, to extend the presumption of pollution, to require adequate bonds, and to protect municipal zoning and police powers.
3. Extend the hold on additional gas leases on public lands in Pennsylvania until a full cumulative analysis can be conducted on the impact of existing leasing of public lands.
4. Enact a severance tax comparable to other states and provide for funding for communities impacted by gas drilling and for environmental conservation.
5. Block efforts to compel unwilling landowners into a "forced pooling" arrangement.

Unless you act, Pennsylvania will suffer reckless degradation.

Sincerely,
Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter

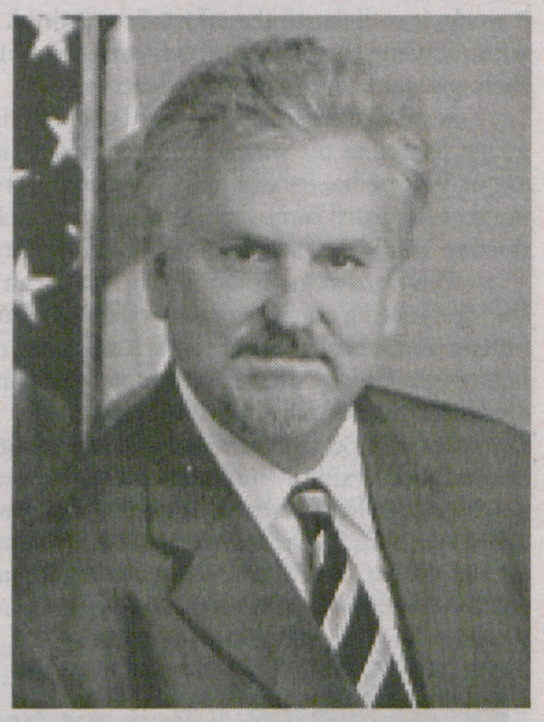
State Rep. Sturla Wants Health Care Law Intact

State Rep. Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster, chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee, issued the following statement regarding Congress' pending repeal of 2010's groundbreaking health care reform law.

"The effort by Congressional Republicans to repeal last year's Affordable Care Act is representative of the partisan political games that are rampant in our nation's capital. It is time to stop the political one-upmanship and act in America's best interest.

"I am urging Pennsylvania's representatives in Washington to consider the consequences of any health law repeal. At a time when the Commonwealth's own safety net, adultBasic, is teetering on the brink of collapse, it is more important than ever to ensure smart health care options are available to everyone.

"Repeal would be costly to the Pennsylvanians' health as well the state's economy. If the federal health law were repealed it would mean more than 7.4 million Pennsylvania residents with private insurance would be vulnerable to having lifetime limits placed on how much an insurance company will spend on their care; people with preexisting conditions would find it harder to gain coverage; and new insurance plans would no longer be required to cover preventative care measures like mammograms and flu shots.



State Rep. Mike Sturla

"Repeal would burden small businesses that as a result would need to pay higher rates than their big corporation competitors for offering health care to their employees. And with this year's focus on job creation, it bears mentioning that repealing the health care law will not create one single job in Pennsylvania or elsewhere."

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

A major controversy continues over a new edition of Huckleberry Finn, which eliminates the word "*nigger*" in the hopes that perhaps more high schools will assign Mark Twain's American classic if the offending word is purged.

What a great opportunity to talk about language, and especially all those words that upset or offend people. Think about it—our language is full of them, as the lgbtq communities in America are well aware. Minority groups, whether ethnic or by any other designation - are well used to the epithets thrown at them over the years. It's as American as apple pie.

Gays and lesbians in the good old U.S.A. know all these slurs and stereotypes—some of them just as offensive as the word "*nigger*." Who wants to be called "*faggot*" or "*dyke*," for example. By now you're probably thinking about all those other epithets you've heard in person and through your reading.

An epithet today means a slur or demeaning label used for a person or group, although it came into the language as a term simply used to characterize or classify a person or thing. Categorizing is not necessarily a bad thing; in the chaos of our world it's one way we try to sort things out. At the same time, a label or category can be terribly confining, or just plain inaccurate and demeaning.

Over the years I've been teaching (OK, over the decades) I've seen my younger students both perpetuate and transcend the use of stereotypes and labels. If you ask young graduates to talk about cliques in their high school the labels come pouring out—some derogatory, some not so much. At the same time, more and more of my younger lgbtq students say they don't want to be categorized at all when it comes to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The list of alphabet letters that begins with lgbtq has expanded greatly over the past 20 years. And the T for transgender, for example, covers a number of other categories as well, including folks who do not embrace that specific designation.

I've been teaching Huckleberry Finn for years, and I know how tricky class discussions can get when we talk about passages in which Twain uses the offending word. I've had students both black and white who simply will not say the word, even when reading a page out loud. It's a powerful word today, no matter what the context is.

I also teach Rubyfruit Jungle in my lesbian and gay studies class, in which Rita Mae Brown has a lot of fun with the words "*queer*," "*faggot*" and yes, even "*breeder*." (In my last column I mentioned my discomfort with being considered straight; well, who on earth wants to called a breeder?!) Brown does a good job with turning all those negative words into something we can laugh about. Her novel uses humor to help the stigmas attached to these epithets go down more easily, just as Twain uses satire and irony to help us deal with the word "*nigger*."

All these difficult words are, in the end, just words; and a study of language and how it works is well worth the effort. I don't think it helps at all to talk about the offensive words without using them. Substitutes - or euphemisms, as I call them - like "*the n-word,*" give them greater power than they deserve.

A study of etymology - word origins - is helpful in learning about the power of language, as well as the way we so often misuse it. Check out the Online Etymology Dictionary or Wikipedia, for example, to learn the true origin of "*faggot*." Many gay men have told me that the word came from the faggots (sticks) used to burn people at the stake back in the day. While that sounds as if it might be true, it's actually a myth.

The word actually came into American English in 1914, comes from a 16-century slur designating an old woman, a person who is not worth much. Knowing this leads us into an analysis of how the American standard over the centuries has been the classic white heterosexual male, to the point that everything and everyone different from that is considered lesser, abnormal, *"the other."*

Thank God our standards are changing. Increasingly we're seeing and talking about one another as simply human beings. And our vocabularies are expanding as we discover new words to help describe and define who we are. More on these new words next time.

Trum Simmons is senior professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and adviser of The Fourth Estate, the Harrisburg campus student newspaper. He also advises HACC Allies, the LGBTQA student organization.

Find out how your business can reach central PA's smart, successful gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Call STEVE KOZOKAS at 717-944-4628
stevek@pressandjournal.com

Community Remembers Jacki Gaynor

By Meghan O'Neill with contributions by Engela Katrin Cöllawn

Some people leave indelible marks on the soul of others. The friends of Jacqueline Elizabeth Gaynor, born John E. Gaynor, Jr, gathered at Stallion's Entertainment Complex to celebrate her life and collect these memories.

Jacqueline Elizabeth Gaynor was laid to rest January 2, 2011. She was born John E. Gaynor, Jr on February 12, 1954 and graduated from Rumson NJ School District and later moved from Rumson to PA. Before transitioning she had seven children: Daniel, Sean, Andrew, Kathleen, Anthony, Hanora and Kerri. After struggling with her identity, she had her surgery to turn her into the woman we all know and love. She had a lifetime of medication adjustments; however her "fairy tale" did come true.

Jacki did a lot in our community. In 1993, she campaigned for the passing of a bill that would give fair and equal treatment of transsexuals in the state of Minnesota; which became the first and only to date to do so statewide. In 2004, she petitioned John Kerry for inclusive lgbt law to be brought to the State House. She participated in the Allentown group of a long course government study on understanding transexuality in 2005. She marched on Washington in 2007 for the NTAC (National Transgender Advocacy Coalition) walk for ethical treatment of transsexual persons. In the same year, she was also voted Miss Gay Pennsylvania promoter of the year.

She chose the middle name of Elizabeth because of her fondness for Queen Elizabeth. She will forever hold the title of Miss State Street. She was the promoter for Miss Gay Pennsylvania for two years.

She worked as an Air Conditioning Technician throughout her male life. The Jacki we all know and love worked at various bars taking cover or coat check. She worked for a short time as a bar tender as well. After that, her life love working on her motorcycles' bloomed. She was very excited to have her children coming back in contact with her and even more excited about becoming an expecting grandmother. She was an ordained minister in the states of California and Arizona.

Jacki had been fighting heart disease for several years, and after a bypass she contracted MRSA. This year she injured her leg doing what she loves, riding the bike. It progressed until late June; she had to have it amputated. She left the hospital ADA because they would not recognize her gender. Her fight continued on for several months; going in and out of the hospital. Christmas day; she was taken by ambulance to the hospital and it's there where she lived her last days. She wanted to have the gold wing in her family room so she could work on it and retrofit it for her disability. We will miss you Jacki, keep riding on wherever you are.

Progressive Activists Earn Awards

Pennsylvania Progressive Summit recently presented seven awards to individuals and organizations that have led the fight to build a permanent progressive majority in Pennsylvania, according to a news release.

Anna Burger Lifetime Achievement

Feeney is being honored for a lifetime of commitment to the progressive movement. Anne is a musician, attorney and union organizer. She is a triple threat who has mobilized untold numbers of activists in her decades of work.

Progressive Activist

Roxanne Pauline - As an unpaid volunteer Pauline has led the fight for healthcare reform and to expose the dangers of drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale region.

Progressive Organization

PA Learners Online Education Association - PALOEA, PSEA/NEA is the first organized cyber-charter school in Pennsylvania and possibly in the nation.

Young Progressive Award

Jason Landau Goodman, a full-time student at Penn, is the Youth Coordinator for Equality PA, where he facilitates the Student Network Across Pennsylvania. Additionally, this year, Goodman was the driving force behind the successful campaign in Lower Merion Township to pass an lgbt inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance.

Grassroots

SEIU Healthcare PA for its Express Scripts campaign - Bucks County area workers organized a successful nationwide campaign to save 400 local, good paying jobs against a concerted corporate campaign.

Coalition Building

Pittsburgh United is a unique neighborhood-based coalition that works on local, state and national issues. They work to advance social and economic justice in the Pittsburgh region by working to ensure that working families and low and moderate-income communities are able to share in the prosperity that is generated by economic growth and development.

Info: More about each winner at http://keystoneprogress.pnstate.org/site/PageNavigator/PASummitAwardsSummary2011

For the second straight year Roof Advisory Group makes donation to The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

Roof Advisory Group Donates $4,500

The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank received a $4,500 donation from Roof Advisory Group for the second straight year. The Food Bank will use this donation to purchase and distribute approximately 375 turkeys to families in need during this holiday season.

"We decided to make a contribution again this year to the Central PA Food Bank in lieu of our normal practice of sending holiday gifts to our valued clients as an expression of appreciation for their business," said E. Jeffrey Roof, President of Roof Advisory Group, Inc., an investment management firm based in Harrisburg.

According to Food Bank Executive Director Kendall Hanna, "These recessionary times have caused many of our neighbors to seek assistance from the food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens that we provide food to. In fact, demand has increased by 50 – 60% over last two years. Roof Advisory Group's contribution will help us provide many more families, children and seniors with a nutritious holiday meal."

Need LGBT-sensitive Mental Health Counseling?

Nothing worse than feeling like you need to speak to a mental health professional but fear you'll be negatively judged because you're gay, or lesbian, or transgender, or bisexual. How's that supposed to help you in a time of stress?

Alder Health Services, formerly AIDS Community, has added the new service in response to a need. And depending on your income sessions may be as low as $6 each. Services are on a sliding-scale basis.

In addition to Alder Health's core programming (HIV/AIDS Services, Primary Medical Care, STD Screening and Treatment and Mental Health Services), the agency provides educational opportunities and special health promotion activities designed to help provide members of the LGBT community with the information, the skills and the resources necessary to make healthy choices and improve their overall health.

Community Health Forums, each with expert presenters from outside the region and local speakers, were held late last year and drew tremendous response from the community. Programs were held on LGBT health issues in general, transgender health, and lesbian health issues. A forum on Gay Men's Health Priorities was held last month. Mark your calendar for September's forum on "Breast Health for Lesbian and Bi Women" and November on "Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community".

LGBT mental health counseling services are now available by calling 1-800-867-1500 or 717-233-7190. Learn about their new LGBT Medical Health Services. More info: alderhealth.org

Martha Wash "Raining Men" at Black and White Party

With a Broadway theme of "The Show Must Go On," The 5th Annual Black & White Party is set for May 14, 6 p.m at Zembo Shrine Auditorium and Event Complex in Harrisburg.

Headliner is dance icon Martha Wash – "It's Raining Men" – a song for which she scored a Grammy Nomination and a cult classic.

"I stand alone in the eye of the storm. Pressures all around, tryin' to wear me down. But it's alright, I won't give up the fight. I said, 'Lord, lift me up!' Let me rise above. Nobody's gonna take my pride, I won't stop, I will not be denied - I carry on!" she says on her web site. No wonder she's lasted strong and beautiful in the 30 years since her famous "Raining Men" hit the charts.

Also appearing is Off-Broadway star Gordon Michaels, the Shueys and DJ Ryan Walter.

Tickets are $25 before the event, $35 day of, $100 for VIP Ticket, $125 day of. Beginning at 6 p.m., the event includes plenty of free and convenient parking, two stages of entertainment, food from regional restaurants, Silent & Live Auctions,

To date, the event has raised about $70,000 for The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, which provides grant funds to local HIV organizations, and York's Family First Health's HIV Program.

"The Zembo is a beautiful, historic space that will allow us to grow even more," said Charles King, originator of the event.

Organizers have been receiving requests from people online offering to volunteer for the popular event. Organizers are asking for more volunteers to come forward. "I'm thrilled that so many people have signed up to volunteer on our website," King said.

Martha Wash

"We have community theatre professionals helping us every year as well as community service groups and businesses," King said. Each year Starbucks sends a cadre of staff and local restaurants provide tasty free food during the pre-show portion of the benefit.

Chad Alan-Carr is directing the Main Stage Show with the assistance of several assistant directors and a talented new artistic team assembled for 2011.

How you can help:

- Planning Committee
- New Guest Services Plan/Check In
- Experience with Salesforce.com needed
- Marketing/Public Relations Committee
- Social Media Marketing Strategy (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Restaurant Recruiters and Coordinators
- Silent Auction
- Logistics
- Stage Crew
- Security
- Sponsorship Committee
- Floral Designing, helping find designers
- Decor
- Assistant, Hair and Make-Up
- Hair and Make-Up artists

Info: c.king@theblackandwhiteparty.com, 717-814-8862.

York Trust Names Director

The York County Heritage Trust announces the recent appointment of Emily Seitz Moore as the new Development Director. With a passion for history and a desire to positively influence the community through an organization for which she cares, Seitz Moore is excited to begin her work with the Trust.

A native of York County, Pennsylvania, Seitz Moore earned a dual degree in History and Behavioral Science. During her studies she also studied abroad in Dharamsala, India, within Emory University's Tibetan Studies Program. Seitz Moore previously worked for a women's health non-profit in Philadelphia before returning to Central Pennsylvania where she worked at WITF as an analyst and then as the Major Gifts Officer. Impacting the community through action, Seitz Moore also volunteered with several non-profits, such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, York Arts, and the Institute for Applied Social Research to name a few.

The York County Heritage Trust is a not-for-profit educational institution that preserves and uses its collections, historic sites, and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of York County, Pennsylvania.

York events

Bead Show
York Expo Center
3/19-20/11

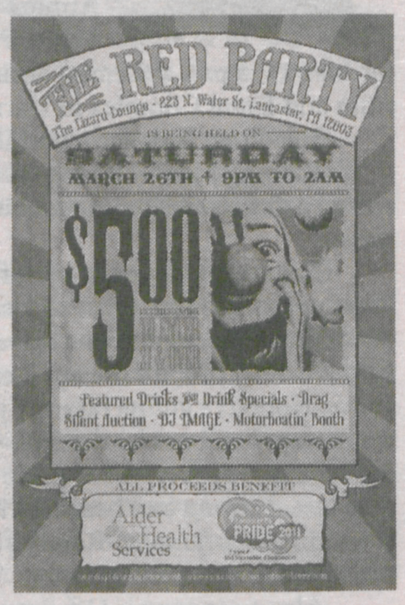
Train Show
East Coast Large Scale
York Expo Center
3/25-26/11

Spring Yard Sale
Wrightsville
4/9/11

Red Party to Benefit Lancaster Pride and Alder Health Services

Hipsters and other denizens of the night gather March 26, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. for the infamous Red Party at Lizard Lounge, 223 N. Water St., Lancaster. This year the event is themed on a side-show carnival for 21+.

The event benefits Lancaster Pride and Alder Health Services, formerly AIDS Community Alliance. Suggested door donation is $5. All money raised, including tips volunteers may get, are being donated to both organizations equally.



The event includes a Silent Auction, 9 p.m. to midnight, comprised mostly of local art pieces, gift certificates, and other higher priced items. All auction monies will be collected by the end of the night. Erica Millner, Lancaster Pride co-chair, is helping once again with the production of the event. Cindy Vicente, Prevention Project Coordinator, Alder Health Services / AIDS Community Alliance, is also a main event organizer.

Nationally-known DJ IMAGE will spin from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., at which time the Drag Queens and Drag Kings will take the stage for an hour, and then he will finish off the party from midnight to 2 a.m. Special activities are a magician (who will work for tips), a mobile motorboatin' booth ($1 gets = 1 motorboat), and a game called "ring around the dildo", an adaptation of "ring toss", but with dildos instead of sticks. There's a 50/50 raffle with the winner announced that night.

Liquor sponsor is Southern Comfort and our featured drink this year is "the bearded lady", which is known as the SoCo Hurricane Drink. Southern Comfort is sending brand reps with free samples for guests to try.

Appalachian Trail ADVENTURES

A Unique Hiking Spa for All Ages and Abilities

MEMORIAL DAY to COLUMBUS DAY

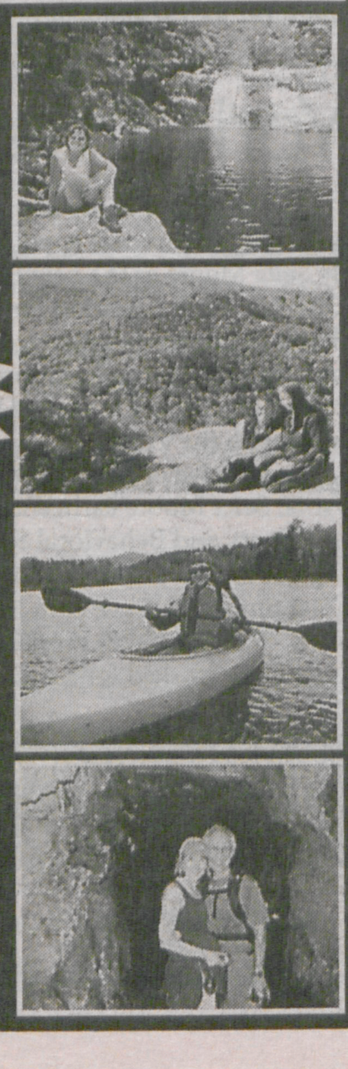
ATA offers affordable hiking and kayaking vacations

Starting at the low rate of $183 per night. Includes accommodations, 3 meals, excursions, guided hikes and kayaking

- Day hikes in Green Mountains, Appalachian Trail & Long Trail
- Kayaking & Caving • Massage • Water Aerobics
- Yoga Class • Tennis Lessons • Cooking Demos
- Nutrition Consultations w/Registered Dietitians
- Vegan and Special Dietary Meals Available

"We look forward to showing you a true Vermont adventure"

To learn more visit www.appalachiantrailadventures.com
Appalachian Trail Adventures, P.O. Box 155, Killington, VT 05751
1.888.855.8655 or john@appalachiantrailadventures.com



Rev. Jesse Jackson on Gay Marriage

We cannot sit idly by while Prop. 8 seeks to target gays and lesbians for a disfavored legal status, as America's newest "second-class citizens."

Over the years people have had strong opinions on Rev. Jesse Jackson. They have ranged the entire spectrum. This distinguished man has dedicated a lifetime to fighting for human rights. From the very early stages of the lgbt movement, Rev. Jackson has been standing by our side at marches, black-tie events and rallies. He has been unshakable in his support for full equality even when at times he received 'heat' for his stand from Americans in his own community.

"I believe in human rights for all human beings. We must measure human rights by one yardstick."

As the Proposition 8 Court Case was being heard in San Francisco this Monday, the Rev. Jackson once again issued some powerful words on marriage equality. We should take them to heart with deep thanks. Here is his statement and I ask you to savor it, organize with it and give him your thanks for his support for decades.

Many years ago in the late 1970's, I visited South Africa, then deep in the throes of apartheid. I was asked by the media what I thought of the situation, and I said, "I believe in human rights for all human beings. We must measure human rights by one yardstick." That principle – our moral center - still applies. Everything flows from this perspective.

We stand together today as equal members of the human family.... as consistent principled advocates for human rights for all people. We stand together today to uphold the principles of due process, of equal protection under the law, of fighting against discrimination against any and all people based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

We stand with you today to support Marriage Equality, and to declare that Proposition 8 must be struck down as unconstitutional. Peoples' right to self-expression, self-determination be respected and affirmed. It's time to challenge ignorance, a time to break the silence and the chains of hatred, of divisive and discriminatory bigotry. Marriage is based on love and commitment – not on sexual orientation. I support the right for any person to marry the person of their choosing.

If Dr. King and our civil rights movement has taught us anything, it's the fundamental principle of that all people deserve Equal protection under the law. LGBT people deserve equal rights – including marriage equality – and equal protection under the law. Discrimination against one group of people is discrimination against all of us. The State – and the Courts - should not sanction discrimination.

To those that believe in and fought for civil rights, that marched to end discrimination and win equality, you must not become that which you hated. It's past time to exist in hypocrisy and ignorance, and time to come out of the shadows and darkness to support unequivocally, equality for all people. Those that support civil and human rights cannot, must not, become perpetrators of discrimination against others based upon race, religion, culture, sexual orientation.

African Americans know too well the sting of legal, state sanctioned, constitutionally driven "second class" citizenship – from centuries of legal slavery and Jim Crow segregation, to classified as 3/5 of a human being in the U.S. Constitution, to facing anti-miscegenation laws that prevented Blacks from marrying whites.

We cannot sit idly by while Prop. 8 seeks to target gays and lesbians for a disfavored legal status, as America's newest "second-class citizens." Our legal scholars have cited fourteen times where the Supreme Court has stated that marriage is a fundamental right of all individuals. That principle must be upheld today – for Blacks and Whites, for straight and gay, for ALL Americans. No group of people should be denied their fundamental constitutional liberties, like equal protection under the law, simply because of who they are.

So today, we do not stand alone. It's time to go forward by hope and not backward by fear, to stand up with courage, hope and strength and send a shout out for equality. Stiff winds of resistance seek a return to intolerance, bigotry and state sanctioned discrimination – whether against immigrants in New Mexico or against marriage equality in California. It should only strengthen our resolve to defend equal protection under the law, equality for all Americans, and the forging of a One Big Tent America.

Laguna Pointe Spa Hosts Chamber

Laguna Pointe Spa, Mechanicsburg, recently hosted The Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Laguna is a modern twist on the traditional salon and day spa.

DON'T ASK. JUST .ning ME.

thecentralvoice.ning.com

OPEN OBEИ OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG 25th ANNIVERSARY

OUTSTANDING LIVE THEATRE ... just 180 miles off Broadway!

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award

by Tracy Letts

April 15 - May 8

A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. An Oklahoma homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets.

For tickets CALL 717-232-1505 or visit www.openstagehbg.com

PSEA · CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND · ARTS

ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG *presents*

A Beaux Arts, Mardi Gras, Costume Ball

Bal Masque - March 5, 2011

At the Appalachian Brewing Company

Sponsored by the Art Association of Harrisburg

www.artassocofhbg.com for more info and tickets!

INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION

Thru March 24

featuring oils, acrylics, drawings and photographs

* * *

INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION

Opening Reception April 1

5-8 pm

with artwork from Canada, Mexico & PA thru May 5

* * *

SPRING SEMESTER ART CLASSES

Start April 11

21 N. Front Street • Harrisburg

717.236.1432 • www.artassocofhbg.com

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

Chamber Celebrates with Nearly 100

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce celebrated moving into its fourth year with nearly 100 members and friends at The Hotel Hershey. Corporate sponsors were Highmark Blue Shield, The Hershey Company, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and Members 1st Federal Credit Union. Additional sponsors were Club XS and My-Community Tickets. Floral sponsor was Jeffrey's Flowers, and Photography and Media sponsor was Posh Studio. Hershey's Frank Miles received the chamber's "Champion of Business Diversity Award". Sam McClure was keynote speaker, a longtime leader in the lgbt business movement.

Photos courtesy of Posh Studio

More photos on page 11

Gettysburg Battlefield Bed & Breakfast

1809 Civil War Fieldstone Farmhouse
Private location on 30 beautiful acres • 8 guest rooms

Why Come to Gettysburg?

- Meet a ghost! Paranormal workshops, ghost walks, and ghost stories abound in Gettysburg
- Explore 19th Century American history including the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg Address, and the Underground Railroad
- Shop for antiques, paintings and sculpture, and regional crafts
- Enjoy the outdoors with hiking, photography, and nature walks, birding and skiing

Dogs Welcome

Commitment Ceremonies and Receptions in our 1820's barn and gardens

Now Open at the Battlefield Bed & Breakfast

Swan Cottage

Our latest addition to our inn is something new, something different and something special!

THE MOST ROMANTIC COTTAGE IN GETTYSBURG

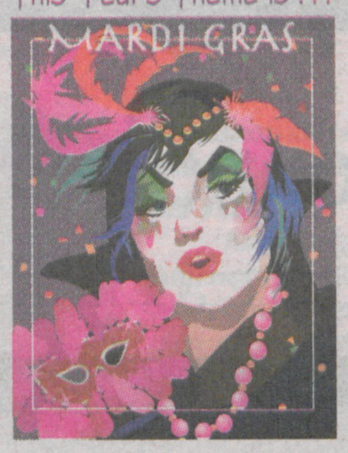
This romantic cottage is designed especially for couples but can accommodate up to four

For reservations call 717.334.8804 / 888.766.3897 • www.gettysburgbattlefield.com

Chamber Celebrates cont'd from page 10

THE PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA PRESENTS ...

This Year's Theme is ...



The 2nd Annual

SPRING FLING

Music By DJ STEVE "Hi-Fi"

SAVE THE DATE - Sat., April 16, 2011 • 6:30-10 pm

- Silent Auction
- Hors D'oeuvres & Drinks
- DJ & Dancing

TICKETS
$35 in advance
$40 at the door
Contact:
springfling@prideofcentralpa.org

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

Held at the:
CENTRAL HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
(formerly THE FOUR POINTS SHERATON)
Harrisburg, Pa.
www.prideofcentralpa.org
springfling@prideofcentralpa.org

The 2nd Annual DINE-IN is seeking individuals or businesses interested in hosting a DINE-IN from January 1, 2011 thru April 30, 2011
Contact The Pride Committee: 717.801.1820 or info@prideofcentralpa.org

Breakfast ◆ Lunch ◆ Dinner

CHICAGO UPTOWN GRILL

TRY OUR ...
- Salads & Soups
- Pulled Pork BBQ
- Delicious Grilled Entrees
- Burgers, Sandwiches & Wraps
- Steaks & Seafood

BYOB

Plenty of Free On-site Parking

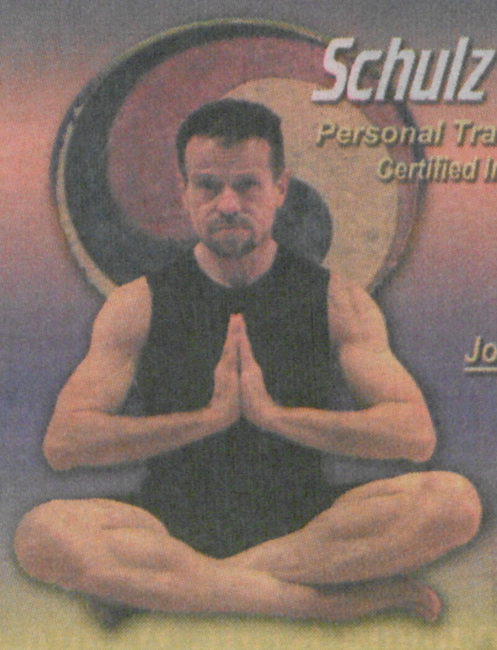
Now Open for Breakfast!

ASK US ABOUT SELF-CATERING
YOU TRANSPORT & SAVE MONEY!

2101 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg • 717.233.7487
(across from the Governor's residence)
Open Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-8 pm; Fri. & Sat. 7 am-9 pm; Closed Sun.
uptownchicagogrill.com

Helping People Feel Great and Have Fun for Over 20 Years!

Schulz Fitness & Training
Personal Training, Corporate And Group Fitness
Certified In A Wide Variety Of Exercise Disciplines



Chuck Schulz
Certified Personal Trainer

Join me for group fitness sessions at:
The Art Association of Harrisburg
Chinese Cultural & Arts Institute
Palmyra Muncipal Building

For Schedules & Information Visit:
www.schulzfitness.com
(717) 234-9336

SCHULZ ENTERTAINMENT

Chuck Schulz
Mobile Disk Jockey
and Entertainer

Birthdays
Anniversaries
Weddings
Commitment Celebrations
This Is Your Life Shows
Fund Raisers & Theme Parties

www.schulzentertainment.com

Donnelly Steen & Co.
WEALTH ADVISORS

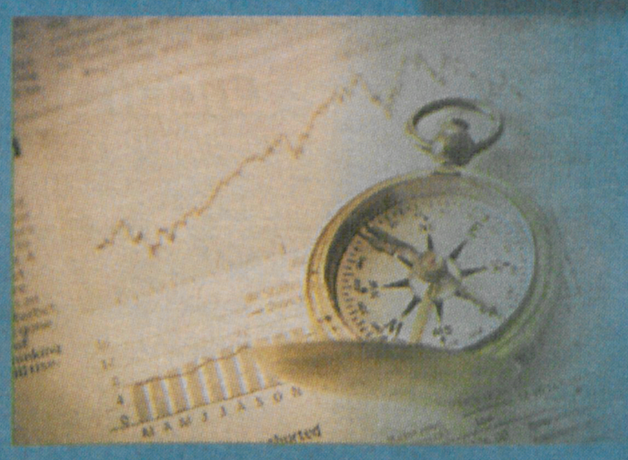
What can Donnelly Steen & Company do for you in this volatile market?

- **Help you establish an affordable savings program**
- **Uncover investment opportunities that meet your current and future goals**
- **Keep investment costs under control**
- **Provide personal ongoing service with a competent investment professional**
- **Estate planning for today and ongoing as your life needs change**
- **Risk Assessment to provide property and casualty and life insurance that is appropriate to secure your current assets**

Independent Agent

Your initial financial assessment is free

LET US QUOTE YOU THE BEST RATE ON AUTO, HOME & COMMERCIAL INSURANCE



We are not stock brokers, we are wealth and investment advisors ...
ASK US WHAT THAT MEANS!

Contact us immediately

Raymond Kraft, Wealth Advisor kraft@donnellysteen.com
Lori Brown, Account Administrator lori@donnellysteen.com
Ross Fronk, Risk Management Specialist fronk@donnellysteen.com
David Rinehart, CFA/Investment Advisor rinehart@donnellysteen.com

We are local and you are welcome to walk in our office at any time!

1800 East Market Street ♦ York, PA ♦ 717.395.9711 ♦ www.DonnellySteen.com

Investment Advisory services offered through *Donnelly Steen & Company*
Insurance services offered through *Donnelly Steen Risk Advisors LLC*

10 Myths Put to Rest

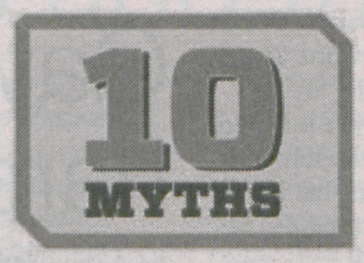
By Evelyn Schlatter and Robert Steinback

(Editor's note: With this and future issues, Central Voice will explore 10 long-standing lgbt myths as presented by Evelyn Schlatter and Robert Steinback.)

Ever since born-again singer and orange juice pitchwoman Anita Bryant helped kick off the contemporary anti-gay movement more than 30 years ago, hard-line elements of the religious right have been searching for ways to demonize homosexuals — or, at a minimum, to find arguments that will prevent their normalization in society.

For the former Florida beauty queen and her Save Our Children group, it was the alleged plans of gays and lesbians to "recruit" in schools that provided the fodder for their crusade. But in addition to hawking that myth, the legions of anti-gay activists who followed have added a panoply of others, ranging from the extremely doubtful claim that homosexuality is a choice, to unalloyed lies like the claims that gays molest children far more than heterosexuals or that hate crime laws will lead to the legalization of bestiality and necrophilia.

These fairy tales are important to the anti-gay right because they form the basis of its claim that homosexuality is a social evil that must be suppressed — an opinion rejected by virtually all relevant medical and scientific authorities. They also almost certainly contribute to hate crime violence directed at homosexuals, who are more targeted for such attacks than any other minority in America. What follows are 10 key myths propagated by the anti-gay movement, along with the truth behind the propaganda.



Myth # 1

Homosexuals molest children at far higher rates than heterosexuals.

The Argument

Depicting gay men as a threat to children may be the single most potent weapon for stoking public fears about homosexuality — and for winning elections and referenda, as Anita Bryant found out during her successful 1977 campaign to overturn a Dade County, Fla., ordinance barring discrimination against gay people. Discredited psychologist Paul Cameron, the most ubiquitous purveyor of anti-gay junk science, has been a major promoter of this myth. Despite having been debunked repeatedly and very publicly, Cameron's work is still widely relied upon by anti-gay organizations, although many no longer quote him by name. Others have cited a group called the American College of Pediatricians to claim, as Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council did in November 2010, that "the research is overwhelming that homosexuality poses a [molestation] danger to children."

The Facts

According to the American Psychological Association, "homosexual men are not more likely to sexually abuse children than heterosexual men are." Gregory Herek, a professor at the University of California, Davis, who is one of the nation's leading researchers on prejudice against sexual minorities, reviewed a series of studies and found no evidence that gay men molest children at higher rates than heterosexual men.

Anti-gay activists who make that claim allege that all men who molest male children should be seen as homosexual. But research by A. Nicholas Groth, a pioneer in the field of sexual abuse of children, shows that is not so. Groth found that there are two types of child molesters: fixated and regressive. The fixated child molester — the stereotypical pedophile — cannot be considered homosexual or heterosexual because "he often finds adults of either sex repulsive" and often molests children of both sexes. Regressive child molesters are generally attracted to other adults, but may "regress" to focusing on children when confronted with stressful situations. Groth found that the majority of regressed offenders were heterosexual in their adult relationships.

The Child Molestation Research and Prevention Institute notes that 90% of child molesters target children in their network of family and friends. Most child molesters, therefore, are not gay people lingering outside schools waiting to snatch children from the playground, as much religious-right rhetoric suggests.

Some anti-gay ideologues cite the American College of Pediatricians' opposition to same-sex parenting as if the organization were a legitimate professional body. In fact, the so-called college is a tiny breakaway faction of the similarly named, 60,000-member American Academy of Pediatrics that requires, as a condition of membership, that joiners "hold true to the group's core beliefs … [including] that the traditional family unit, headed by an opposite-sex couple, poses far fewer risk factors in the adoption and raising of children." The group's 2010 publication Facts About Youth was described by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association as non-factual. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, was one of several legitimate researchers who said Facts misrepresented their findings. "It is disturbing to me to see special interest groups distort my scientific observations to make a point against homosexuality," he wrote. "The information they present is misleading and incorrect."

Were You Offended by Saturday Night Live?

If you're a Saturday Night Live fan you may have seen a Jan. 29 sketch on making the transition from male to female and the use of hormones.

Equality Pennsylvania (EQPA) and GLAAD (The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) joined together "in condemning the dangerous and inflammatory anti-transgender segment on the January 29" a news release said.

"This segment ridiculed transgender individuals and degraded their lives and experiences. In an age in which hate crimes against lgbt individuals continue to occur and we have seen the suicide of numerous lgbt youth, this type of dehumanizing broadcast is unacceptable," the release continued.

GLAAD's Aaron McQuade told Central Voice "Every laugh in this segment comes from the appearance of one of the sketch's transgender characters – except for the laughs that Keenan Thompson's character gets for being intrigued by one of the characters. From subtle things (Hader's way of crossing his legs and wearing earrings) to very unsubtle (Thompson's reaction) the laughs for this sketch all come from the idea that both the existence and approval of transgender people is absurd. Transgender people face tremendous difficulties in this country, including hate violence, harassment and discrimination, and so-called "jokes" like this reinforce the stigmas that fuel those injustices. Comedy should be rooted in humor, not cheap stereotype."

Central Voice readers told us via email:

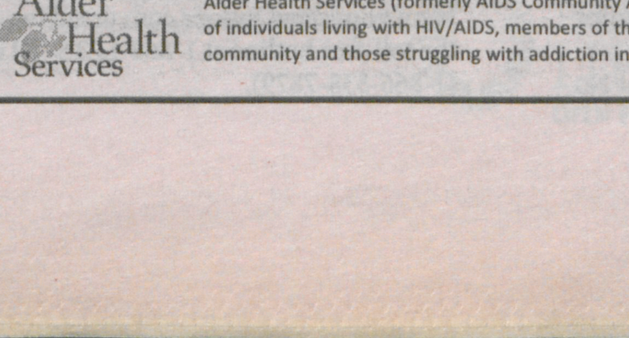
A reader - I was not offended by SNL's skit on making the transition from male to female and the use of hormones. It was comedy sketch, nothing more. SNL and other shows have been doing skit's against every known group that walks the face of the earth for years. It does not promote violence or degrade us because of these comedy sketches.

I know several trangender people and we talked about the show, the ones that saw it laughed at it and were not offended. Other's saw it on my Facebook page were I posted it and did not find it offensive.

GLAAD and these other lgbt advocates should not get their pink panties in an uproar over a simple comedy act. If they really want to go after TV shows for portraying gay people in a negative way, The A-List is the first place to start. This show shows all gay men as limp wristed,

continued on page 15

Live ♥ Learn ♥ Love



We all deserve to love.

Living with HIV does not change that.

It just means learning how to protect ourselves and others.

Alder Health Services offers HIV+ individuals and their partners an opportunity to engage in educational programs and discussions that help all of us discover how to live, learn and love.

Healthy Relationships
A five-part workshop that provides tools to decrease the stress often associated with sharing your HIV status with family, friends and partners.

Living Well Seminars
Interactive discussions on topics such as "Making Safer Sex Fun," "Viral Loads and Risk Reduction," "My partner is Negative, how do I make sure he stays that way"

Individual and Couples Risk-Reduction Consultations
Private consultations on strategies and techniques to reduce the risk for HIV transmission.

HIV Testing for Negative Partners
Getting tested regularly is an important risk-reduction strategy. Both partners can play an active role in accessing HIV testing every three to six months.

For more information call 1.800.867.1550 or visit www.ALDERHEALTH.org

Alder Health Services

Alder Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Alliance) is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and those struggling with addiction in the South Central Pennsylvania region.

1 in 5 HIV+

By M4M Project

Scott Bryan, lead press officer for HIV in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs and TB Prevention, is eager to get out the word: 1 in 5 men who have sex with men in 21 U.S. cities are HIV-positive. As many as 44% are unaware they're infected.

"The HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men in 21 U.S. cities study reminds us that HIV remains a serious health threat among gay and bisexual men in America's major cities," he said.

This analysis of data from the 2008 National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System found that one in five (19 percent) men who have sex with men (MSM) in 21 major U.S. cities is HIV-infected. Further, while our study found a high prevalence of HIV among MSM of all races, black MSM were most affected (28 percent of black MSM were infected, vs. 18 percent of Latinos and 16 percent of whites.)

Our research also found a high proportion of MSM who were infected were unaware of their infections. In fact, nearly half (44 percent) of MSM who were infected in the study were unaware of their infections.

The study also provided additional insight into the populations of MSM most in need of HIV testing and prevention:

• Among racial/ethnic groups, black MSM with HIV were least likely to be aware of their infection (59 percent unaware, vs. 46 percent for Hispanic MSM and 26 percent for white MSM).

• While young MSM (under age 30) had lower HIV prevalence than older men, they were far more likely to be unaware of their HIV infection. Among MSM aged 18-29 who had HIV, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) were unaware, versus 37 percent for men age 30 and older.

• Among young MSM, young MSM of color were less likely than whites to know they were HIV-infected. Among HIV-infected black MSM under age 30, 71 percent were unaware of their infection; among HIV-infected Hispanic MSM under age 30, 63 percent were unaware. This compares to 40 percent of HIV-infected white MSM under age 30.

While barriers may exist, it is critical for MSM to understand the importance of testing -and to get tested at least once a year.

Contact: 717-233-7190, M4M is a component of Alder Health Services, until recently known as AIDS Community Alliance.

New Resources for Same-Sex Couples on Families

Family building options have expanded for same-sex couples in recent years, in part because of increased fertility treatment options. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are approximately 600,000 same-sex couples in the United States, and many same-sex couples want the experience of having children.

In recognition of the need for patient education and support, new resources are available for same-sex couples from Fertility LifeLines™, including a new site, www.FamilyBuildingOptions.com, which is designed to provide targeted information to same-sex couples about their family building options.

The site offers:

• Information about assisted reproductive technology (ART) and other treatment options,

• A "Find a Fertility Specialist" tool,

• The ability to request an appointment or information from a fertility specialist or clinic,

• Information about upcoming family-building events, donor program information, and other resources.

• New booklet: In The Know: What No One Tells You About Family Building Options for Same-Sex Couples

The "In The Know: What No One Tells You About Family Building Options for Same-Sex Couples" booklet is the newest edition to the Fertility LifeLines, The series is designed to provide same-sex couples with free resources to help them along their paths to parenthood.

• The booklet outlines options for couples based on their distinctive needs; educates them about their fertility and how to get help; provides questions to ask their specialist; and offers guidance in navigating payment and reimbursement.

• Fertility Lifelines™, a free informational support service for couples sponsored by EMD Serono, provides an abundance of resources for couples struggling with fertility issues. Fertility LifeLines™ can be accessed free of charge at: www.FertilityLifeLines.com.

Couples can receive a free copy of In The Know by registering at www.FamilyBuildingOptions.com or calling the toll-free hotline at 1-866-LETS-TRY (1-866-538-7879).

coming out column

Queeries: Gay cop faces harassment

By Steven Petrow

Gay cop faces harassment

Q: I started working as a police officer just last year. When I was first hired, pretty much everyone asked me why I'm not married. Then came the gay jokes. I've tried to let it go since I'm still a rookie, but it seems like they know I'm gay and want to push me out the door. How would you handle this?

A: As a law enforcement officer yourself, you may know that the workplace you're describing pretty much fits the description of "hostile" and your treatment verges on harassment. It may even be sexual harassment, depending on various factors such as whether your harassers know you're gay. Often, people think that sexual harassment only happens to women, but that's not the case. In fact, it was only recently that same-sex sexual harassment became widely accepted as real. The law now extends its protections to all of us, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

However your workplace mistreatment might eventually be categorized, there are things you can do about it. Start by talking informally and off-the-record to a supervisor or ombudsman (someone whom you think is generally supportive), to decide whether or not to file an official complaint. At the same time, do your best to make sure you have communicated that the "jokes" offend you or make you uncomfortable. This communication can be in person, by letter or through email. In addition, keep a diary of what's going on, including dates, times, places and what exactly has been said and done and by whom. Also keep track what you have done in response.

If all else fails, make an official report to the department and/or contact an LGBT rights group or an attorney specializing in employment law to find out your options. But be careful: Lesbians and gay men can be fired at will simply because of their sexual orientation. And until Congress enacts the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, that will remain the case.

Breast cancer makes me nervous about sex

Q: I'm a lesbian who's had breast cancer. I've been dating a little but am uncomfortable about my body and not sure when to discuss the various health issues and the marks they've left. Before we have sex – or after?

A: Starting to date and then going to bed with someone new can raise all kinds of anxieties; add into the mix feeling self-conscious about scars and/or the loss of body parts and I can understand why you might feel uncomfortable. Your question is part and parcel of one of the most common of dating concerns: When do you talk about the "skeletons" in your closet? The answer is slowly. As the relationship deepens, offer up the basic facts of your medical history and be open to any questions. Not surprisingly, that's why many of us with body image concerns (full disclosure: I have a testicular prosthesis) choose to wait to have sex until we're comfortable enough with a new partner to discuss these issues. Still, steel yourself for the possibility of rejection. Once, after I told a new boyfriend that I had had testicular cancer, he thanked me for being honest and sent me on my way, saying: "I just buried my partner who died from cancer. I can't go down that path again."

The last word: Don't forget that each of us is the composite of our experiences (surgery included), and these make our beauty unique.

Gay couple (plus cat) contemplates a holiday photo card

Q: Many of my straight friends send holiday cards with their kids front and center. Since my partner and I don't have any offspring, can we send a card with just us as the cover models? We could add in our cat if you think that would help.

A: Most holiday photo cards feature kids ("aren't they adorable!") or vacation destinations ("look at how fabulous we are!") as key elements. The truth is that these images are just another example of the deep narcissistic streak in our culture ("look at me and my beautiful family"). But there are limits: It's actually pretty rare that couples alone - straight or gay - pose for their close-ups without a supporting player. Since equality is all about parity, I'd say do go ahead with your close-up—just don't forget your cat ("isn't she beautiful?")

One last note: If you're not already out, this is quietly effective way to do so. Imagine the photo: two husbands and their cat in front of the fireplace. ("The warmest of holidays from Justin, Benji, and Garfield!")

Steven Petrow writes for the Huffington Post, Advocate.com and 365Gay.com and is the author of the forthcoming book, "Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners" www.gaymanners.com. Have a question? Email him at ask@gaymanners.com

HIV/AIDS: *The Best of Times and the Worst of Times*

By David Mixner

In recent months, the media has been filled with encouraging news about progress in treating HIV/AIDS. At the very same time, we have been dealt some real setbacks. The lesson is the same as it always has been: embrace and celebrate the progress, and don't let up the pressure until there is a cure.

The good news is indeed reason to celebrate. From the International AIDS Conference in Vienna came word that promising new gels have been developed that could dramatically lower the infection rate among at risk women. The Wall Street Journal recently published a story indicating that scientists have discovered three powerful antibodies that can neutralize 91% of HIV strains.

It's crucial for every American that cares about this horrendous epidemic to keep up the pressure, seek new funds, and hold lawmakers accountable for their actions.

The bad news is that the economic situation is wrecking havoc with HIV/AIDS budgets -- both here and abroad. Many states are freezing the ability of people with HIV/AIDS to receive treatment. AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) funds have either been cut way back or frozen, making it impossible for new clients to access to them. Unless this is corrected, it could mean a death sentence for some people.

It's crucial for every American that cares about this horrendous epidemic to keep up the pressure, seek new funds, and hold lawmakers accountable for their actions. Given the uncertainty with the economy and ADAP, it makes Medicare funds for treating HIV/AIDS even more critical in assisting people with the disease.

Medicare provides a vital source of health coverage for around 100,000 people with the disease. In 2006, Medicare became the single largest source of federal financing for HIV care. The number of people with HIV receiving Medicare benefits has grown over time, reflecting growth in the size of the of the HIV-positive population and an increased lifespan for people with the virus.

As thrilled as I was with the new healthcare law, there is one part that is extremely disturbing. Especially since my journey over the years has taught me the urgent need to hold public officials accountable for their actions in this battle for a cure.

Quite simply, with the creation of an entity called the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), we could lose our ability to pressure lawmakers for change. This new board is simply not accountable to anyone.

While the IPAB is tasked with cutting Medicare spending, it is exempt from any judicial or administrative review of its decisions, and is barred from probing the government's spending patterns on specific healthcare providers, such as hospitals.

Shackled by such restraints and yet dangerously unaccountable to Congress, the people or the courts, this board could turn its attention to successful programs in Medicare to carry out its cost cutting mission.

The mere existence of an unchecked, powerful agency making life-determining decisions should be worrisome to everyone. Draconian decisions by IPAB to limit access to medicines to treat HIV will be free from judicial review, the need for advance public notice, or even appeals from patients.

The fact of the matter is that the IPAB, like any other agency of government, can make bad decisions. And if they do, we have absolutely no recourse to change them.

. . . with the creation of an entity called the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), we could lose our ability to pressure lawmakers for change. This new board is simply not accountable to anyone.

Personally, I can't think of a worse scenario than for our research leaders to be on the cusp of a cure, only to be denied the necessary resources because a government panel has blown research and development into the stone ages.

We must not be shortsighted in our zeal to bring down health care costs by thwarting future research and reversing already achieved progress. Stated simply, if we go this route, we would only blunt the more laudable and courageous goal of saving lives and one day eliminating this horrific disease once and for all.

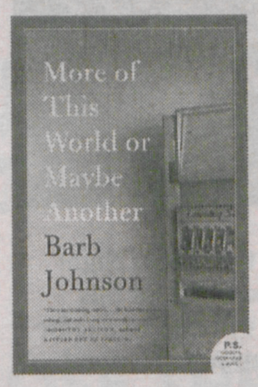
David Mixner has been involved in public life creating policy and as an activist and writer for over forty years. He has had two bestselling books, Stranger Among Friends and Brave Journeys, both published by Bantam Books.

book review

Stonewall Book Awards

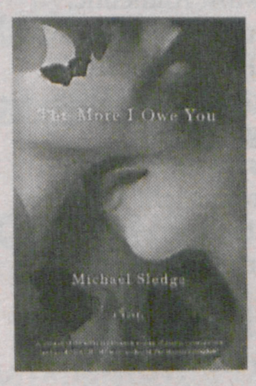
By Lew Maurer, Library Services Administrator
Dauphin County Library System

The Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award is presented annually by the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Roundtable of the American Library Association to English language books that have exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered experience. The 2011 Winner and books receiving Honor Awards are:



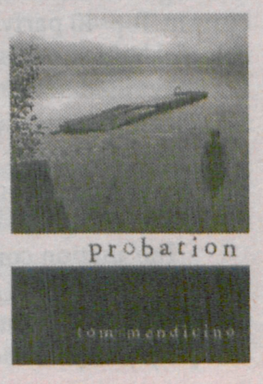
2011 Winner
More of This World or Maybe Another, by Barb Johnson
In her debut collection, Johnson maps the lives of several New Orleanians who orbit Delia Delahoussaye's Laundromat on Palmyra Street, where saying hello and fighting can sound just alike.

Honors
Holding Still for As Long as Possible, by Zoe Whittall
This captivating glimpse into the lives of three twentysomethings showcases Whittalls ability to create complex characters. … Josh, a female-to-male transgender works strenuous shifts as a paramedic and tries to erase from his mind the atrocities he witnesses daily; Amy, his ex-girlfriend and an amateur filmmaker, lives off of her wealthy parents; and Billy, a former child pop star, now endures extreme anxiety attacks.



The More I Owe You, by Michael Sledge
In his first novel, memoirist Sledge ("Mother and Son") imagines the life of poet Elizabeth Bishop and her lover, socialite and architect Lota de Macedo Soares, while they lived together in Brazil during the 1950s and '60s.

Probation, by Tom Mendicino
A middle-aged married man whose indiscretion in a men's bathroom forces him to re-evaluate his chosen life becomes a surprisingly sympathetic narrator in this potent debut.



Check out these and hundreds of other LGBTQ titles at your library

THE LIBRARY | DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
OPEN FOR DISCOVERY

Were You Offended cont'd from page 13

swishy bitchy queens. Sorry the gay men that I know are men in jeans, t-shirts, boots, business suits and look like your average man. I overlook the A-List and move on, because I know that is not me and I could really care less, it's a stupid show.

A comedy act is a comedy act, and I have seen far worse that what SNL did and no one bated an eyelash at it or made a fuse over these skits. Even working in the gay night club business, I saw gay people (drag queens, lesbians, transgender and comedians) trash lgbts through comedy acts and the whole place roared with laughter.

Thank you, SNL, for stepping outside the closet and giving us a little something to laugh at. It's pretty sad when people get upset over a stupid comedy skit and just can not laugh a little and enjoy life.

A Reader - I was a little taken back by it when I saw it. I'm not a transgender person, but I thought that it was quite insensitive of them to do something like that. So yes, I was offended by it.

A Reader – I didn't find it particularly offensive. In fact, when I watched it I just thought of it as just another not particularly funny sketch and quickly forgot it. I didn't give it a second thought until all of the controversy within the lgbt community erupted. I don't think we do ourselves any favors as a community by being so quick to be outraged by every real or imagined offense. If we truly want equality then we can't place ourselves in the privileged class of "Those at whom you shall not laugh". Lighten up already.

See segment at thecentralvoice.com

Allentown Ordinance Written by Law Students

An ordinance granting domestic partner benefits to employees of Allentown was written by students in the Columbia Law School Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic. Mayor Ed Pawlowski has signed the measure into law.

The ordinance will provide city employees who have same-sex domestic partners the same benefits as employees with spouses, including health insurance and time off when a partner is hospitalized or dies.

"Allentown must be a city of inclusion, a city where every person counts," Pawlowski said. "For a city to grow and thrive it has to be a progressive community, one that supports the rights of all its individuals. I am proud that I live in a progressive city that recognizes that what makes us great is our unique diversity."

The seven-member Allentown City Council unanimously approved the domestic partnership ordinance on Jan. 19.

"We are thrilled that the City Council and Mayor have supported and passed these domestic partner benefits," said Larra Morris '11, who drafted the ordinance along with Jennifer Simcovitch '11, and Swathi Sukumar '10. "Since same-sex couples cannot marry in Pennsylvania, the law is significant for the gay and lesbian members of the city's workforce who previously could not obtain these benefits for their domestic partners.

The ordinance applies to Allentown's approximately 1,000-employee workforce as well as its retirees.

Allentown joins more than 80 U.S. cities and counties in that have adopted laws recognizing domestic partnerships. "Because benefits are such an important part of compensation, domestic partnership ordinances like Allentown's help ensure that gay and lesbian employees are paid on par with their non-gay co-workers," said professor Suzanne B. Goldberg, the clinic's director.

In drafting the law, the clinic collaborated with the Pennsylvania Diversity Network, an lgbt organization in Pennsylvania, which had been advocating for domestic partnership benefits in Allentown for more than 15 years. The students also worked with City Council president Mike D'Amore, who introduced the legislation, and the city human resources department.

Law school students have worked on a wide range of projects, from constitutional litigation to legislative advocacy to immigration cases, to serve both individual and organizational clients in cases involving issues of sexuality and gender law.

Info: http://www.law.columbia.edu/focusareas/clinics/sexuality

Bal Masque - Prom Party for School of Life Grads

The Bal Masque, an event that has been Harrisburg's premier Beaux Arts, Mardi Gras Dinner Dance since 1940 when the annual Art Association of Harrisburg fund-raiser was first begun.

Ever since that time, artists, theatre folk and musicians have mingled with Harrisburg's community leaders for an elegant and zany evening of costumes, cocktails, dinner, dancing and fun.

This year's event is March 5, 7 p.m. to midnight at the Appalachian Brewery, 50 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg. Tickets are $50 per person for open seating in the Abbey Bar and Dance Floor area and $75.00 per person for reserved seating throughout the Rear Gallery. Tickets available at AAH Gallery, at all AAH events and on-line at www.artassocofhbg.com. All proceeds benefit the Art Association of Harrisburg's cultural programs.

Each year committee members search the universe and the backs of their kitchen drawers for a unique theme idea that will challenge attendees' fantasy acumen. This year's theme is jam- packed with potential for elegant and outrageous costumes. From nostalgic gowns and classic tuxedos replete with corsages and boutonnieres, to real and fantasy High School prom courts, the sky is literally the limit for over-the-top theme duds and characters.

For those looking for ideas and reasonably priced formal wear, John McHenry suggests that a visit to any of the local Goodwill family stores could land you a fancy frock at a bargain price.

If you are looking for images, check Google images for "Prom Night" to see the lengths that modern "Promies" will go to "out-do" their classmates.

DJ Chuck Schulz will keep the party moving with Blasts-From-The-Past and current Top-40 party hits along with a colorful light show and witty repartee. Bal ticket holders may email Chuck at schulzentertainment@earthlink.net with suggestions of music that they associate with the theme for potential incorporation into the evening's Prom Play List.

The auction committee have collected many fantastic items and gift packages for this year's spectacular "Silent Auction." Unique jewelry, services, comestibles, and, of course art, including the "Prom Night" painting by Alexis Snyder used for this year's event logo. There will also be a raffle for a beautiful chalcedony and diamond chips lady's ring!

The costume competition will be judged in a number of different categories by our celebrity judges from Open Stage of Harrisburg, Gamut Theatre Group and Theatre Harrisburg. Group and individual categories will include: Most Authentic, Most Elegant, Most Amusing, Most Bizarre, Best Prom Queen, Best Prom King and Queen, Best Prom Court, Best Real High School, Best Fantasy High School.

Unlike the famous quote from The Graduate..."Plastics!" Prom Night attendees will be able to look into the murky future via the talents of Dr. North, whose psychic abilities have been a Bal favorite for several years.

You will be able to make your Prom Night memories last forever through the photographic wizardry of Paul Vasiliades who will be printing photos on-site for a reasonable price.

Info: 717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com

transgender column

EqualiT

By Jeanine Ruhsam
President, TransCentralPA

A while back I wrote a column opining that the lgbt consortium really isn't made up of unassociated, strange bedfellows seeking power in numbers a la "E pluribus Unum." What brings us all together is our common quest to mess (that's the nice word) with gender- as most of the socially conservative pubic regard it. It's of paramount importance to them to maintain strict conformance to the gender binary: law and order are best kept when everyone conforms to strict adherence to the boy/girl rules.

When gays and lesbians (and the silent, hidden bi folk) openly avow their feelings, they are messing with the gender rules. Many people don't like that…they tend to look in the mirror and wonder…but, they are relieved to find that they are of the majority that is comfortable and securely within the bounds of acceptable gender behavior.

We transgender people really mess with the rules. We didn't choose that path, any more than a woman that loves a woman or a man that loves a man chooses that predilection. We live beyond the pale, true social outcasts for our amazing defiance of the gender rules. For us gender becomes fluid…in order to accept ourselves we learn that the binary is, indeed, a social construct, and not rigid whatsoever…we demonstrate that every moment of our existence. However, it is also why we struggle so to "choose" but one gender of presentation, so that we do appear to fit in to the acceptable standards of the social milieu. That is why so many of us spend untold sums of money and suffer so much pain having medical and surgical procedures done to us so that we'll blend in and fit the categorical rules so that we'll be able to live simple, normal lives- like other American citizens.

This is why the fight for gender equality is SO important. Last week the U.S. State Department again revised and improved the passport rules- radically revise but last spring- for transgender people, moving further away from the unjust previous provisions that insisted on genital mutilating surgeries in order to allow transgender Americans to live and travel legally in the gender that they identify as.

Last summer Equality PA worked ardently with the National Center for Transgender Equality, The Gay & Lesbian Task Force and TransCentralPA to assist the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in completely revising the requirements for residents of the Commonwealth to change their gender marker. The number of Pennsylvanians who have taken advantage of the new policy is truly amazing. These were almost all people that could not or would not – because of the expense, health issues or philosophical reasons- undergo surgery to alter their genitalia to appear like the genitalia of the gender in which they identify. That such an absurd, unjust and discriminatory provision for identification has been forced upon us for so long is truly heartbreaking.

With your help and support, sisters and brothers, complete equality for all Americans is within reach. It is ALL about gender, and we are all about equality.

New Kids on the "Equality" Block

Richard Socarides

Kerry Eleveld

The lgbt community has never been one to rest on its victories. The community can never be fully satisfied until we have full equality. When our lgbt citizens experience the same rights, benefits and protections as all other Americans then we can take a nice long vacation in total happiness. With the long road ahead on marriage equality, passage of ENDA and other key rights, we need all hands on deck.

The launch of Equality Matters today is an exciting addition to those willing to join the battle. One of Washington's most effective leaders, David Brock of Media Matters, announced today the launch of "Equality Matters". Highlighting the announcement was the selection of its leadership in former Clinton advisor Richard Socarides and former "Advocate" journalist Kerry Eleveld. The selection of these two top notch community leaders have certainly guaranteed a significant launch for the new organization.

Socarides who has been extremely active in fighting for the repeal of DADT and Marriage Equality will serve as President of Equality Matters. Eleveld who is one of Washington's leading journalist will be editor of Equality Matters.org. You couldn't ask for a more experienced team of good folks.

David Brock in his announcement said:

Despite huge progress in gay rights in recent years, exemplified by the historic vote this weekend finally striking down the ban on gay men and women from serving in the military, we are now living through a period of ferocious fundamentalism in the Republican Party and the conservative movement. Traditional conservatives and the Tea Party movement are united only in their contempt for equal rights for all Americans and a desire to return America to a 19th century idyll. Equality Matters will not allow these latter-day

continued on page 21

FITNESS FUSION
PERSONAL TRAINING STUDIO

NEED TO LOSE THE HOLIDAY BULGE?
WE MOTIVATE YOU TO GET RESULTS!

- Intimidated by Big Gyms?
- Need Help Getting Started?
- Working Out with No Results?
- Too Much Junk in Your Trunk?

We are dedicated to one-on-one personal training.

VISIT US AT OUR LOCATIONS:

4085 Linglestown Rd.
Harrisburg, PA
717-545-5400

1136 Mae St.,
Hummelstown, PA
717-298-6119

www.fitnessfusionpa.com

1 FREE
PERSONAL TRAINING SESSION
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. One free session per person.

Being healthy means being **active.**

Unique Opportunities to be Active and Healthy throughout the Day including:

5K for Health
AIDS Walk
Drag Race

Alder Health Services

Our HEALTH Our COMMUNITY

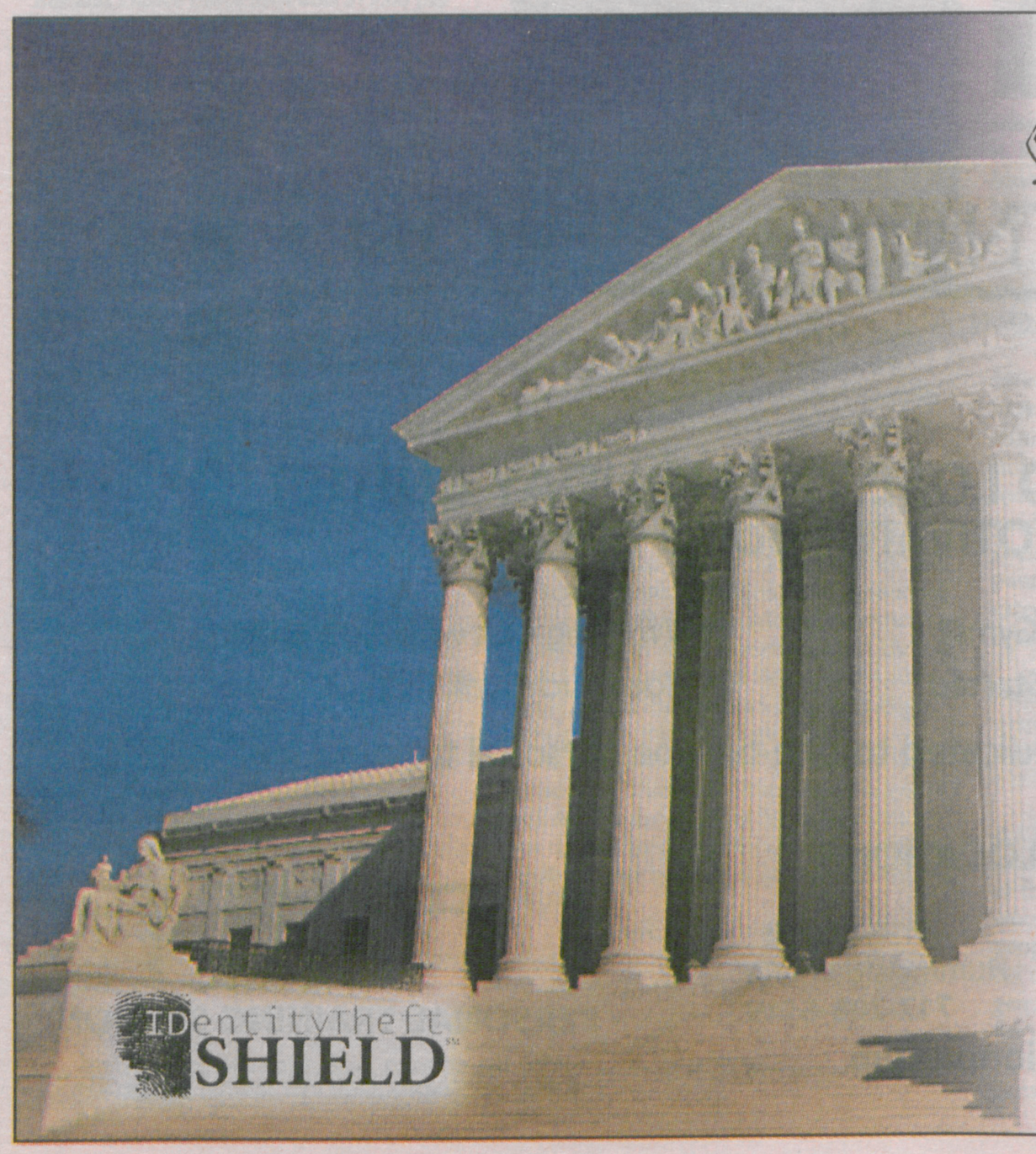
2011 Activity Day

Sunday, May 15

City Island, Harrisburg — Starting at 9am

For more information and to register, please call 1.800.867.1550
or visit **http://alderhealth.kintera.org/activityday**

Benefiting Alder Health Services (formerly ACA) | **www.ALDERHEALTH.org**



Serving North America's Families since 1972

PPD LISTED NYSE

PRE-PAID LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES

William B. Cooley, Jr.

Independent Associate
Small Business & Group Benefits Specialist

PO Box 60094
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-0094
Phone 717.657.5524
Cell 717.329.6122
williamcooleyjr@prepaidlegal.com
www.prepaidlegal.com/hub/williamcooleyjr

Goodman Earns Progressive Award

By Frank Pizzoli

Father of community organizing Saul Alinsky said "Last guys don't finish nice." Twenty-one year old Jason Landau Goodman is exceptionally nice and will not be last to anything.

Jason Landau Goodman

Goodman is one of seven award winners selected by the Pennsylvania Progressive Summit. The awards are given out to individuals and organizations who have led the fight to build a permanent progressive majority in Pennsylvania, according to a Summit news release.

Goodman is a fourth-generation resident of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County and a University of Pennsylvania full-time student. He also works nearly full-time as Youth Organizer for Equality PA. "Most of my time is spent managing the Student Network Across Pennsylvania (SNAP), the youth-run statewide coalition of lgbtq student organizations. SNAP is proving that young lgbtq leaders are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today," he said. Goodman is also 2010 graduate of the Center for Progressive Leadership's Pennsylvania New Leaders Program.

Progressive runs in his family.

"Many of my relatives are lawyers and I have learned a lot about social justice growing up in a progressive area. I went to a Quaker school just outside Philadelphia which instilled in me peace, trust, and equality for all as core values," Goodman said. He think progressivism is not being afraid to make change happen. "It's about thinking integrally about an issue and implementing creative solutions. To me, progressivism is about helping take our world forward while keeping true to your values.

Through SNAP, Goodman has talked to literally hundreds of college students. "The 'pulse' is hard to gauge because the community is so diverse. I think there is a widespread sentiment that full legal equality for lgbtq Americans will eventually happen, but it will require people to organize together to make it happen."

Observers frequently describe younger progressives of all persuasions as flighty, making a great presence known and then disappearing after a national election.

"Society has expected a lot from my generation. Young people have been and will continue to be key players for social change in progressive movements. Like any organizing effort, the lgbtq equality movement is based on relationships people have to build power and the interest they have in an issue. When lgbtq individuals and their allies organize in meaningful and inclusive ways, anything

is possible. When people hear: "You can be fired for being, or perceived to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer in Pennsylvania" many people are first shocked, then become frustrated and motivated to help change that," Goodman said.

An incredible organizing infrastructure was created during the Obama presidential campaign, Goodman said. "But today we can see it is not as strong as it once was. The passion is still there in the younger generations, but the organizing networks need to be revitalized," Goodman observed. Once the stories about youth who were lost to suicide from anti-lgbtq bullying captivated the nation's attention, many Americans were heartbroken. "Soon after, New Jersey passed a very strong anti-bullying bill," he said.

Goodman has also received The Jonathon Lax Scholarship (2010); Campus Pride - 12 Leaders in Action, honoring the top 12 US lgbtq youth leaders (2010); Philadelphia Gay News - Person of the Year Runner-Up (Individual-2010).

Lancaster events

Trio of Elements: Slow Art Making
Runs until 3/11/2011
The Phillips Museum of Art
Lancaster, PA

Eldreth Pottery's Seconds Sale
Runs until 3/31/2011
Eldreth Pottery
Strasburg, PA

Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway
Runs until 5/1/2011
The North Museum of Natural History & Science
Lancaster, PA

BUILDING HOME VALUE

Contractors that you will like, know & trust

ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

- Home Remodeling
- Custom Carpentry
- Additions
- Decks
- Flooring & Tile
- Finished Basements
- Paver Patios
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Walkways

Serving:
- Harrisburg
- York
- Lancaster

& beyond

717.744.8856
JANDABUILDING.COM

J&A BUILDING AND HARDSCAPES, LLC

"Be Inspired"

LANCASTER ARTS hotel

300 Harrisburg Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603
717.299.3000
www.lancasterartshotel.com

LEBANON'S ONLY ADULT BOOKSTORE!

1604 E. Cumberland St.
Lebanon • 717.273.6398

Couples Welcome

Remodeled and Under New Management

Viewing Booths & Live Dancers

DVDs • Mags • Books
Toys • Novelties • Lingerie
Romantic Gifts • Lubes
Lotions • His-Hers Pills

Bachelor & Bachelorette Party Headquarters
Rent Our Plush Private Rooms For Your Next Event

NOW HIRING DANCERS!

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS

Seeking quality consignments for our Antique & Fine Art Auctions

Fine Art, Silver, Jewelry, Ceramics, Rugs, Decorative Arts, Furniture, Rare Collectibles & Toys, Coins. Individual Items or Collections.

Complete list available at www.CordierAntiques.com

Sold $14,000

Sold $27,000

Sold $38,000

Referral Fees & Cash Advances Available – We Also Buy!

CALL NOW FOR CONSULTATION

OPEN APPRAISAL DAY

Join us every Wednesday from 12noon to 6pm at 2151 Market Street, Camp Hill for Open Appraisal Day to receive free verbal auction value estimates for your items. No appointments needed; limit five items or less (photographs acceptable).

Cordier Antiques & Auctions is a full service auction company offering consignment, estate, personal property, and real estate auctions; complete appraisal services; and the purchase, brokering and private sale of antiques and fine art.

For more information, visit www.CordierAntiques.com

CORDIER ANTIQUES *& auctions*

AUCTIONS
APPRAISALS
ESTATES
REAL ESTATE

NOW LEASING

Various Apartments and Houses throughout Greater Harrisburg Area
Ready for Immediate Occupancy

Lehman Property Management

RentCentralPa.com

717-652-4434

Tenant Screening and Placement
Lease Execution and Enforcement
Maintenance and Construction Oversight

Rent Today in Central PA!

Professional Management Services

Check out our blog!

classickeepsitclean.com

You're invited to share your fashion & garment care questions with us!

Find us on facebook!
facebook.com/ClassicDrycleaners

100 % Satisfaction Guaranteed
Classic Drycleaners
and Laundromats

valuable coupons at...*classicdrycleaner.com*

New Kids cont'd from page 17

'clerics' to gain serious recognition by the media nor influence the policies that affect the lives of every American.

Despite our best efforts over the years to stiffen the spines of progressives in the face of unrelenting smears from the Republican attack machine, fearful progressives continue to cede the political field to right-wingers who are waging war against core American values. We need to do more. Our new communications war room for gay equality, Equality Matters, will expose right-wing bigotry and homophobia wherever we find it, show that the real political vulnerability on these issues belongs to the GOP, provide a desperately needed ballast in the media, and trigger progressive passion – so that our political leaders act on their convictions and fight for them.

Socarides added:

We believe that the moment for decisive action for full gay equality is here -- that this moment is a historic imperative. The goal of Equality Matters is to leverage our expertise in media and communications, and politics and policy, to support those who share that belief and help create an environment where policymakers, the courts, the media and the public at large understand that gay rights are human rights.

Media Matters is the perfect place to do this -- it has already been at the forefront of exposing hatred and bigotry in the media -- and I am excited that it has once again agreed to take a leadership role in creating an environment for accelerated progressive social change. Media Matters has a substantial record on gay rights already and one that we hope to build on.

Eleveld spoke of why she made the change to the new organization:

"For the past two years, I've had a front-row seat to history. And the longer I sat there, the more drawn I felt to participating in that history rather than reporting on it. The pace of change has been slower than I would like and I've found it increasingly difficult to feign objectivity about my status as a second-class citizen. Now I hope to take the niche I carved out as a journalist in the White House briefing room and build upon it with the full force of my convictions."

Media Matters for America founder and CEO David Brock today announced the launch of Equality Matters, a new media and communications initiative in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality. Joining Equality Matters as president is Richard Socarides. A leading gay rights advocate for over two decades, Socarides previously served as White House special assistant and principal adviser to President Bill Clinton on gay civil rights issues. Award winning journalist Kerry Eleveld will serve as editor of EqualityMatters.org, which will include news, opinion, and messaging about the ongoing fight for equality. Eleveld is currently Washington Correspondent for The Advocate and will begin her new duties on January 15, 2011.

Brock issued the following statement:

Despite huge progress in gay rights in recent years, exemplified by the historic vote this weekend finally striking down the ban on gay men and women from serving in the military, we are now living through a period of ferocious fundamentalism in the Republican Party and the conservative movement. Traditional conservatives and the Tea Party movement are united only in their contempt for equal rights for all Americans and a desire to return America to a 19th century idyll. Equality Matters will not allow these latter-day 'clerics' to gain serious recognition by the media nor influence the policies that affect the lives of every American.

Despite our best efforts over the years to stiffen the spines of progressives in the face of unrelenting smears from the Republican attack machine, fearful progressives continue to cede the political field to right-wingers who are waging war against core American values. We need to do more. Our new communications war room for gay equality, Equality Matters, will expose right-wing bigotry and homophobia wherever we find it, show that the real political vulnerability on these issues belongs to the GOP, provide a desperately needed ballast in the media, and trigger progressive passion - so that our political leaders act on their convictions and fight for them.

Socarides wrote a column "Why Equality Matters" and issued the following statement:

Our culture is changing rapidly. Most Americans believe that gays and lesbians are entitled to the same rights and responsibilities as their fellow citizens, including now over 50% who believe in marriage equality. Yet in Washington during these last two years, even with the historic passage of "don't ask, don't tell" repeal, we were unable to fully transform favorable public opinion into the powerful and undeniable force for change that it should have been.

Part of the reason for that is the continuing homophobia we face (and need always to counter) from the obstructionist conservative apparatus. But we also missed opportunities.

We believe that the moment for decisive action for full gay equality is here -- that this moment is a historic imperative. The goal of Equality Matters is to leverage our expertise in media and communications, and politics and policy, to support those who share that belief and help create an environment where policymakers, the courts, the media and the public at large understand that gay rights are human rights.

Media Matters is the perfect place to do this -- it has already been at the forefront of exposing hatred and bigotry in the media -- and I am excited that it has once again agreed to take a leadership role in creating an environment for accelerated progressive social change. Media Matters has a substantial record on gay rights already and one that we hope to build on.

Eleveld issued the following statement:

For the past two years, I've had a front-row seat to history. And the longer I sat there, the more drawn I felt to participating in that history rather than reporting on it. The pace of change has been slower than I would like and I've found it increasingly difficult to feign objectivity about my status as a second-class citizen. Now I hope to take the niche I carved out as a journalist in the White House briefing room and build upon it with the full force of my convictions.

BACKGROUND

From unraveling the right's false attacks on Department of Education official Kevin Jennings to calling out Rep. Steve King (R-IA) for comparing gay marriage to socialism, Media Matters and Media Matters Action Network have been vigilant in holding both the media and elected officials accountable for the myths, falsehoods, and anti-gay rhetoric that so often accompanies the debate on LGBT equality.

Equality Matters will build on the work done by these two organizations. Through strategic communications, research, training and media monitoring, Equality Matters will strengthen efforts for full LGBT rights and correct anti-gay misinformation. Its goal is to enhance advocacy and activism across all platforms and to leverage expertise in support of others who are working to make full equality a national imperative.

More on Richard Socarides:

Richard Socarides is president of Equality Matters. He was White House special assistant and senior adviser to President Bill Clinton, specializing in policy, legal and political issues. He served as principal adviser to Clinton on gay civil rights issues and is one of the highest ranking gay persons ever to serve in the federal government. He has also worked as special assistant to Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

From 2000 to 2006, Socarides held senior positions in media (Time Warner), entertainment (New Line Cinema), and technology (AOL). He has also held staff positions in several presidential campaigns and served as spokesperson for a Hollywood motion picture studio.

Socarides is an attorney who has authored Op Ed opinion pieces on gay rights for The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Politico.com, The Huffington Post and AmericaBlog, among others. He has received awards from gay rights organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, the Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York, the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and the Hetrick-Martin Institute.

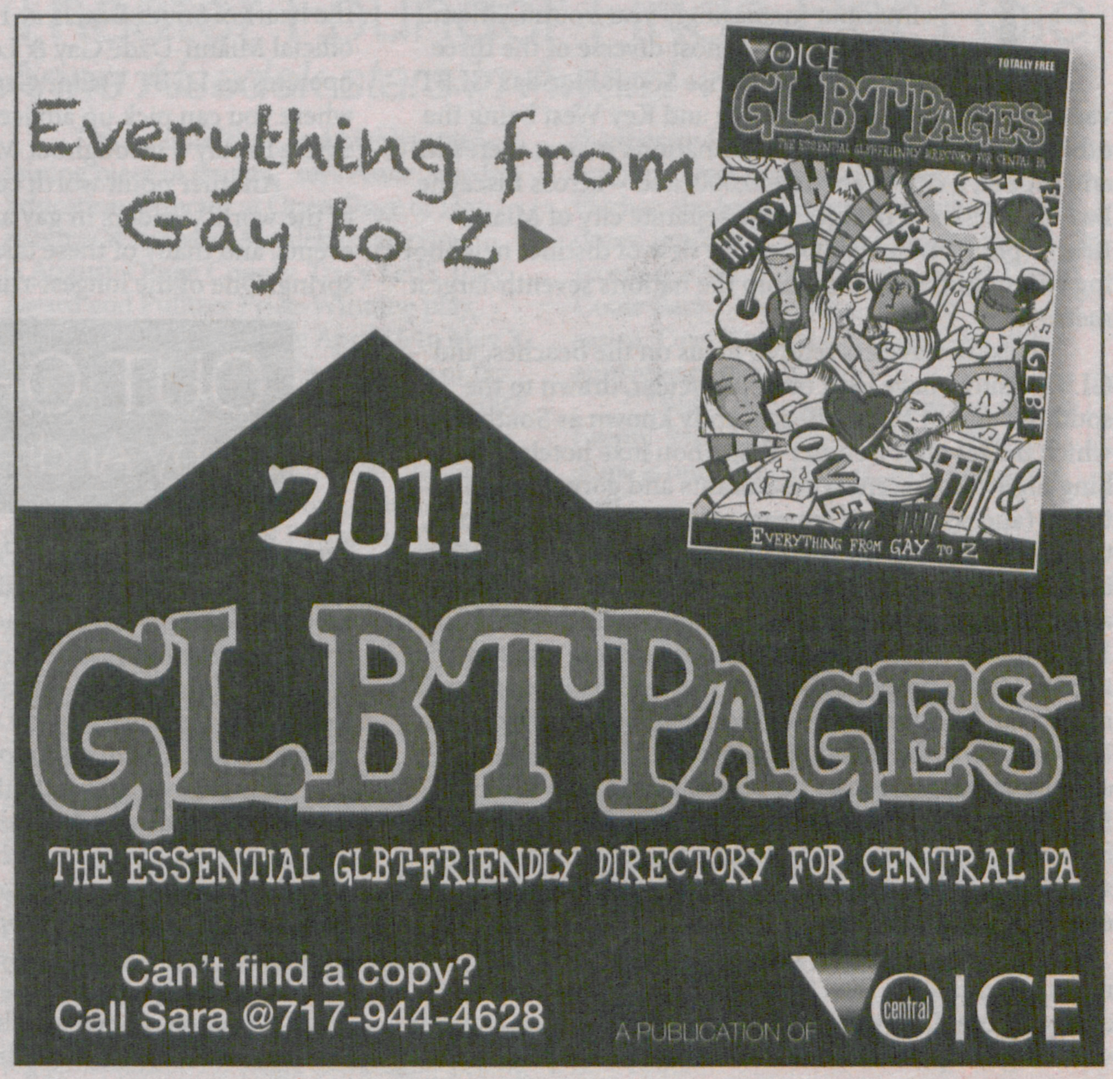
Socarides has served on the boards of directors of GLAAD, the leading media and entertainment industry gay rights organization, and Lambda Legal, the largest and oldest national gay rights legal group. Frequently quoted in national publications, Socarides often appears as a political commentator and expert on television.

More on Kerry Eleveld:

Kerry Eleveld is editor of EqualityMatters.org. As the Washington correspondent for The Advocate, Kerry Eleveld regularly attended White House press briefings with press secretary Robert Gibbs. She conducted two interviews with Barack Obama during the 2008 election and was the only reporter from an LGBT outlet to get a sit-down interview with him. Eleveld has worked as a journalist in different media for over a decade and earned a Master's degree in journalism from the University of California-Berkeley in 2003.

Since she began covering LGBT issues in 2006, Eleveld's work has won: the "Best News Article" award in 2006 from the American Veterans for Equal Rights; second place for "Coverage of Election/Politics" in the New York Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest; and first place in the 2007 "Excellence in News Writing" category as well as the 2010 Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for Excellence in LGBT Media from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalist Association.

Eleveld regularly offers insights about political developments to news outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, the Associated Press, and Sirius Radio.



Miami and South Beach

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Long a magnet for gay tourists, especially in winter but increasingly year-round, Miami is the largest and most diverse of the three prongs that comprise South Florida's GLBT vacation trinity (Fort Lauderdale and Key West being the others). And it's really a few destinations in one: there's Miami proper, a city of about 440,000, and – across Biscayne Bay via a series of bridges – the separate city of Miami Beach (population 90,000), plus a slew of distinct neighboring communities that make up the nation's seventh-largest metro area.

Leisure travelers tend to focus on the beaches, and GLBT visitors have long been particular, drawn to the southern end of Miami Beach, aptly known as South Beach, which bulges with trendier-than-thou luxe hotels, throbbing nightclubs, scene-y restaurants and gorgeous beachfronts (and sometimes appears utterly devoid of bulging tummies – indeed, the South Beach reputation for perfect bodies is both a hallmark and a criticism). What's terrific about Miami Beach as a vacation getaway is that it's a 10- to 15-minute drive from museums and growing cultural offerings of Miami proper. And once you're here, it's not much more than an hour's drive to reach the edge of Everglades National Park, the thriving gay scene in Fort Lauderdale and the upper reaches of the scenic Florida Keys (Key Largo, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park). There's a lot more to see and do on a Miami vacation than merely sunning your buns by the ocean – although there's plenty of opportunity for that, too.

As you're planning a trip here, keep a couple of resources in mind: The city's Greater Miami Tourism has an excellent GLBT travel site (www.miamiandbeaches.com/visitors/gay.asp), which details recommended places to stay, eat, shop and play, along with relevant events. And right in the heart of South Beach, at 1130 Washington Avenue, the official Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce operates an LGBT Visitor Center (www.gogaymiami.com), where you can pick up advice on what to see and do – and where to stay – throughout Miami.

Another point worth considering is that Miami is one of the world's leaders in gay and lesbian circuit parties and events, and many of these take place in late winter and early spring. One of the longest-running gay circuit events in the country, the Miami Winter Party Festival (www.winterparty.com), a fundraiser produced by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, takes places from March 2 through 7 and delights some 10,000 participants with some 20 parties, arts and cultural events, tours and cocktail receptions – there's also a extensive roster of events geared just toward women, from a Latin dance party to a jazz brunch.

The following month, the third annual Miami Beach Gay Pride parade and festival (www.miamibeachgaypride.com) draws hundreds of spectators to Ocean Drive – this is one of the more community-oriented, laid-back parties in South Beach, an excellent opportunity to mingle and party with locals, and check out the dozens of bands, vendors, and local organizations at the festival between Ocean Avenue and gay-popular 12th Street Beach. The organizers also run a Miami Beach Pride Cruise to the Bahamas, from April 18 through April 22 (www.pridecruise.com).

Just after Pride, the increasingly prestigious Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (www.mglff.com) comes to the area, presenting dozens of screenings and events from April 23 through May 2. Other noteworthy events of GLBT interest to keep in mind later in the year include Aqua Girl (www.aquagirl.org) women's weekend in mid-May, Sizzle Miami (www.sizzlemiami.com), which caters to gay men of color, and Sizzle Her Miami (www.sizzleher.com), a concurrent women's event, both of which are during Memorial Day weekend in late May; Miami Beach Bruthaz Black and Latino Gay Pride (miamibeachbruthaz.com) in mid-July; and the Miami White Party Week (www.whiteparty.org) in late November.

Part of the fun of South Beach, beyond Ocean Drive and the sunny sands that flank it, is sauntering along the main north-south drag, Washington Avenue, a sometimes slick, sometimes raffish stretch of shops, hotels, and restaurants, plus the refreshingly sex-positive World Erotic Art Museum – the curious, extensive collection inside includes phallic fertility relics from 100 BC, exhibits on Lady Godiva and Catherine the Great, Tom of Finland figurines, and a magnificent four-poster bed, whose four "posts" are actually massive carved wooden penises.

Running perpendicular to Washington, the Lincoln Road also abounds with culinary and retail diversions – this pedestrian-only promenade is lined with palm-shaded sidewalk cafes and nightclubs. A full square mile of South Beach comprises the Art Deco District, a historic collection of some 800 prominently preserved buildings that showcase the sleek, distinctive style of 1910s to 1940s Miami. You can learn more about the city's art deco heritage at the

continued on page 23

Out of Town cont'd from page 22

Wolfsonian Museum.

South Beach is one of the country's bona fide hot spots for dining. Red Steakhouse (redthesteakhouse.com) is one of the most impressive venues, serving deftly prepared Italian fare and tender steaks. For upscale creative Cuban fare, try D. Rodriguez Cuba (www.drodriguezcuba.com) inside the Astor Hotel – crab empanaditas and crispy-skin pork are among the specialties. And, of course, don't overlook favorite longtime standbys, like the stainless-steel 11th Street Diner (www.eleventhstreetdiner.com), which serves tasty diner fare 24/7; Books & Books, with its sunny sidewalk cafe along Lincoln Road; and touristy but fun Joe's Stone Crab (www.joesstonecrab.com), which has been serving fresh seafood for nearly a century.

Lincoln Road is also home to a pair of the most popular gay nightspots in South Beach, MOVA Lounge (www.movalounge.com), a classy cocktail bar, and Score (www.scorebar.net), an expansive place with a trendy see-and-be-seen crowd. Other gay social spots of note include Twist (www.twistsobe.com), an expansive two-level video bar with a big patio out back that's been de rigueur with revelers since it opened in 1993; and the Palace Cafe (www.palacesouthbeach.com), which overlooks Ocean Drive and is a favorite spot for lunch, cocktails, or dinner, especially after a visit to the gay beach at 12th Street.

If you've tended to focus your energy on South Beach in past visits, you really owe it to yourself to hop over to Miami proper for at least a day of exploration. It's here that you'll find one of Florida's most fascinating house-museums, Vizcaya. A short drive north of downtown, the Wynwood Arts District, where you'll find the outstanding Rubell Family Collection (an amazing assemblage of cutting-edge contemporary pieces spanning several large gallery rooms) and a number of terrific galleries, including Calix Gustav, which made a particular strong mission of including GLBT works, and the Wynwood Walls, a series of large-scale murals. There's also a great restaurant around the corner, Joey's Caffe & Ristorante (www.joeyswynwood.com), serving tantalizing thin-crust pizzas, antipasti platters, and elegant salads.

Downtown itself is a neighborhood with a burgeoning restaurant scene – check out Cviche 105 (www.ceviche105.com) for stellar Peruvian cuisine, Tre Italian Bistro (www.tremiami.com), and Sugarcane Raw Bar Grill (www.sugarcanerawbargrill.com), plus such important arts venues as the historic Gusman Center for the Performing Arts (take a tour of the ornate interior) and the dazzling Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Miami also has a few of the top gay bars in the region, downtown's Club Mekka (www.mekkamiami.com), on Saturdays, for Discotekka); the Latin-flavored Club Sugar (clubsugarmiami.com) in Coral Gables, and the multiracial Club Boi (www.clubboi.com) – which is more Latin on Fridays, and African-American on Saturdays – in North Miami.

Trying to keep up with Miami's, and especially South Beach's, constantly evolving lodging landscape requires a scorecard – glitzy new hotels and resorts continue to open at a remarkable pace (this has even been true during the rough economy of the past couple of years). One of the most talked-about openings has been that of the Lords South Beach Hotel (www.lordssouthbeach.com), which opened inside a vintage art deco stunner (formerly the Nash). Reviews thus far have been mostly positive – the Lords has 52 rooms with simple but stylish white, yellow, and turquoise colors schemes and plenty of cushy amenities, from iPod stations to DVD players.

The latest high-profile entry, opened in February 2011 behind the Versace Mansion in a pair of restored Collins Avenue deco gems, Dream South Beach (www.dreamsouthbeach.com) contains 108 chic rooms and suites, the full-service Chopra Spa, and a superb restaurant – The Tudor – opened by vaunted chef Geoffrey Zakarian. Also near the beach and shopping, the the Z Ocean Hotel (www.zoceanhotelsouthbeach.com) a relaxing low-rise that spans a block between Collins and Ocean avenues. Rooms in this contemporary, low-keyed property are richly appointed with large windows, expansive balconies, fine bathrooms, and cushy feather beds.

In downtown Miami, the gay-popular Kimpton brand operates the swanky and chic Epic Hotel (www.epichotel.com), a soaring 411-high rise on the Miami River with expansive views of Biscayne Bay and the downtown skyline. This is a great base for exploring downtown, and it's just 10 minutes by car to South Beach. Inside the hotel, you'll find the excellent Exhale Spa, and a pair of superb restaurants, Area 31 – which overlooks the pool – and the sleek modern Japanese eatery from London, ZUMA.

The area also has a few top-notch smaller properties catering significantly to gay and lesbian visitors. With a slightly quirky (but interesting) location just across the Miami River from downtown Miami's retail, dining, and culture, the Miami River Inn (www.miamiriverinn.com) is a terrific, affordable option if you're a fan of historic residential architecture – it occupies several stunningly restored early-20th-century houses and cottages, with a total of 40 rooms.

Intimate options in South Beach include the beautifully kept, lesbian-owned SoBe You B&B (sobeyou.us), a 10-room stunner on a quiet street that's within an easy walk of local nightlife and shopping; and the super-affordable Tropics Hotel and Hostel (www.tropicshotel.com), which has both private and dorm-style accommodations with among the lowest rates in greater Miami – it's clean, friendly, and a short walk from the beach and Lincoln Road. For such a glamorous city, Miami offers a surprising value, even during the winter season – just book ahead, and expect higher rates, during some of the aforementioned festivals.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

arts & entertainment

STRAND-CAPITOL

Lily Tomlin
March 25, 7:30 PM
Strand Theatre

Lily Tomlin continues to venture across an ever-widening range of media, starring in television, theater, motion pictures, animation, and video. Tomlin has received six Emmys; a Tony for her one woman Broadway show, Appearing Nitely; a second Tony as Best Actress, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics' Circle Award for her one woman performance in Jane Wagner's The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe; a CableAce Award for Executive Producing the film adaptation of The Search; a Grammy for her comedy album, This is a Recording as well as nominations for her subsequent albums Modern Scream, And That's the Truth, and On Stage; and two Peabody Awards--the first for the ABC television special, Edith Ann's Christmas: Just Say Noël and the second for narrating and executive producing the HBO film, The Celluloid Closet.

HERSHEY THEATRE

Rain, A Tribute To The Beatles
March 10/11
Thurs., 7:30 PM
Fri., 8 PM

RAIN, the internationally-acclaimed Beatles concert, returns by popular demand! From the early hits to later classics that The Beatles never got the chance to play live, this multi-media concert recaptures the era through all phases of The Beatles' astounding musical career. Covers the Fab Four from their very first Ed Sullivan Show appearance through the Abbey Road album, the psychedelic late 60's and their long-haired hippie, hard-rocking rooftop days. Sing along with your family and friends to such favorites as "Let It Be," "Hey Jude," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Come Together" and "Can't Buy Me Love," and relive Beatlemania from Ed Sullivan to Abbey Road!
Price: $65.00, $55.00, $45.00
717-534-3405
1-800-745-3000
HersheyTheatre.com.

WHITAKER CENTER

Al Stewart
Sunoco Performance Theater
March 1, 7:30 PM

Scottish born singer-songwriter, Al Stewart is what you would call a veteran of the music world. With multiple Top 20 hits, a lifetime of stories, and a catalog prolific enough to play for days on end, Stewart's success continues to flourish.
His career began in 1967 when his first album, Bedsitter Images was released, followed up quickly by Love Chronicles. He has worked with musical icons, including Paul Simon and a pre-Led Zeppelin Jimmy Page, while releasing several more semi-autobiographical albums. Stewart eventually ventured into the world of lyrical folk rock, where he scored a hit with Nostradamus and gained a solid American following.
Tickets - $55, $45, $35

Theater Founder Finds Her Role

Anne Alsedek stars in Award-Winning play

"It's an unsettling and highly-entertaining piece of theatre," says Anne Alsedek, Education Director at Open Stage of Harrisburg. What Mrs. Alsedek is referring to is August: Osage County, Tracy Lett's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-Winning play, which runs at Open Stage April 15 to May 8. This will be the Central PA premiere of the play, which premiered on Broadway in 2007.

Open Stage of Harrisburg continues it's 25th Anniversary Season with the three act drama that tells the biting and funny tale of the Weston family of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The large extended clan comes together in August at their rural homestead in Osage County after the alcoholic patriarch disappears. Forced to confront scarring secrets, the family must also contend with Violet, a drugged-up, deeply unsettled personality at the center of the familial storm. In the Open Stage production, Alsedek stars as that family matriarch.

"She has taken over," says Alsedek, smiling. "Violet Weston has taken over and I have to say, it's a little scary. Seriously, though, I am lucky to be able to play such a fantastic, dysfunctional woman."

But Alsedek is is no stranger to playing big personalities on stage. Since co-founding the theatre (and it's Studio/School) with her husband Don Alsedek along with Marianne Fischer, she has been seen in well over two dozen productions at the intimate theatre. In recent seasons, Alsedek appeared in Doubt, Come Back Little Sheba,, Frozen, and Assasins. Open Stage is celebrating it's silver anniversary this season.

"We've done a lot of shows in the last twenty-five years," says Alsedek. "But this show is one of the biggest. And one of the best."

The cast also includes Brenda C. Eppley, Jim Woland, Judy Valentine, David Olmsted, Gail Tierney, Anthony Leukus, Brian Schreffler, Paris Peet, Kimorie Cherry, Kelli Eberlein, and Lisa Haywood. The Open Stage creative team includes Jim Woland (sets), Gwen Alsedek (costumes), and Nick Marino (lights).

August: Osage County plays April 15 - May 8 in the intimate Angino Family Theatre at Open Stage of Harrisburg, 223 Walnut Street, located on the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage in downtown Harrisburg. Admission is $27 and $21 for Students with ID. Purchase tickets at www.openstagehbg.com or by calling 717-232-1505.

Is Being Gay 'Disgusting'?

By Frank Pizzoli

"Nobody seems to have actually read the Bible, the book they claim is their guide to life and the afterlife," says Australian Edward Falzon. Author of "Being Gay is Disgusting," Falzon reached his conclusion after studying what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuality.

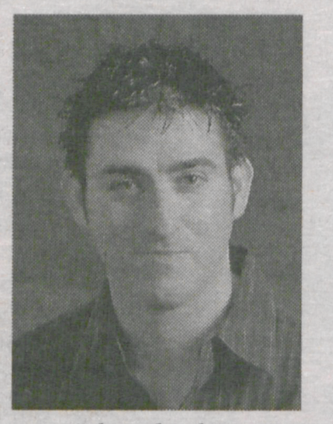
Falzon paraphrased the first 2,700 years of biblical history, chapter-by-chapter, into a tome whose alternative title is "God Likes the Smell of Burning Fat." By removing the repetition and formality in the text, he says, "all that's left is, frankly, the ridiculous."

The Bible's a hard read, Falzon said, so "I've taken it upon myself to make it more readable and entertaining, and this first installment is the five books of Moses."

"I find this willful ignorance of one's own faith to be incomprehensible," he said.

Does Falzon expect backlash? "I expect a lot! But I only expect it from people who haven't read 'Disgusting' and probably never will. Same as their claiming to be an expert on the Bible which so many have never read," he observes.

"From the exposure I've had so far in non-religious, religious, straight and gay circles, I have had overwhelming support - people do seem to get the joke, particularly about why I've used that title," Falzon said."



Edward Falzon

What about the book title?

"There are laws passed all over the world restricting the rights of gays," he says. "The UK's Section 28 was only repealed in 2003, California's Proposition 8 is brand new, and even in Australia, gay sex was illegal until 1994!"

The source, said Falzon, of these and other laws and bigotry against gays is rooted firmly in the Bible, as if anti-homosexual rules are written on every page. But in fact, in the whole 1,500-page King James Bible, homosexuality is mentioned all of six times.

By contrast, unicorns are mentioned nine times - 50% more often. Clearly, gay people weren't a huge priority for Yahweh. But the way Christian groups carry on, the bible might as well be called "Being Gay is Disgusting" because the only laws passed nowadays that have anything to do with the Bible are about restricting the rights of lgbt people. It's bullshit. So my book is part-parody and part-protest."

Why settle for 'Second Class' training when your body deserves FIRST-CLASS care?

First-Class Fitness with Nutrition by Stacy G.

- Individualized personal training
- Group fitness classes including Boot Camp, Biggest Loser, TRX and more
- Central PA's only clinical nutritionist on staff
- Programs available to help you maximize the transgender process
- Fitness programs tailored to specific health concerns including HIV and diabetes

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

'Making Central PA fitter one body at a time'

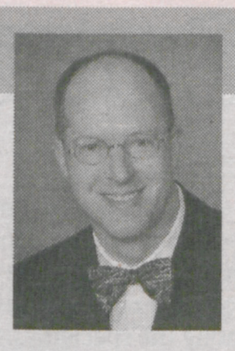
We are located at:

902 Market Street REAR • Lemoyne • 717.557.5628

www.1stclassfit.com

legal column

Estate Planning Based On Life Stage



By Leo L. Dunn

Estate planning is not a one size fits all exercise. It depends on you, your assets, your goals, your intended beneficiaries, and your stage of life. Generally, this breaks down into three major stages of adulthood. For GLBT individuals, as well as opposite sex couples, care needs to be taken to make sure you are legally protecting the individuals who mean the most to you.

Stage One: ages 20-40 – Financial Stability Creation

During this period, most individuals and couples are working hard trying to make ends meet, pay off student loans and get small businesses or careers in high gear. All of their energy is focused on today and laying a foundation for tomorrow. During this period, couples need to think of the following legal documentation for estate planning:

Formalizing partnerships:
Cohabitation agreements
Marriage or civil unions
Creating family connections (if children are desired):
Natural birth
Adoptions
Sperm/egg donors
Child support/custody "pre-splits"
Guardianships
Protecting partner/family in case of early disability/death:
Living will/health care directive
Power of attorney
Will
Insurance

Stage Two: ages 40-60 – Estate Accumulation

During this period, most couples are past the paycheck-to-paycheck finances and starting to build equity and homes and businesses. They need to consider different issues and documentation:

Reducing taxation:
Differences in gift taxes
Tax bracket considerations
Allowable deductions and who should take them
"Pre-nupt" in case of "divorce"
Providing health insurances
Properly titling assets:
Joint ownership versus trust
Income and estate tax considerations
In case of "divorce" distribution agreements
Assuring ease of transition/continuity of business in case of death:
Succession plans
Insurance

Stage Three: Ages 60+ - Retirement and Elder Care

During this period, individuals and couples need to plan for proper care, maintenance of living arrangements and final passage.

Final documentation needs to consider:
Providing for income stability
Maintenance of the home
Assuring proper health care (long term care insurance)
Keeping the couple together during end of life
Providing for assisted living or nursing care
Locating an appropriate place of retirement
Assuring desired disposition of remains

Unfortunately, you cannot just do a check list of "purchases" at each life stage and consider everything satisfactory. You actually need to sit down with your partner, discuss your goals and means, and decide what you want to occur and what is feasible given your assets and income. Once you've decided what you'd like to happen, you can them have a conversation with your attorney to determine what documents are best suited to your needs at that time.

Remember, it's your life and it will change over time so you will need to review all documents and update them on a regular basis every five to seven years.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.

DON'T ASK. JUST .ning ME.

thecentralvoice.ning.com

Hershey's Frank Miles a "Champion of Business Diversity"

Photo courtesy of Posh Studio

Franklin A. Miles, Jr, left, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, receives the "Champion of Business Diversity Award" from Russ Boggs, CEO, Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

At the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce recent annual dinner, chamber CEO Russ Boggs presented the "Champion of Business Diversity Award" to Franklin A. Miles, Jr of Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. Miles is vice president, secretary and general counsel of Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company, and has been a great supporter of the region's lgbt community.

Prior to joining Hershey in 2000, Miles practiced law for 18 years and was a partner in the Harrisburg-based law firm of McNees, Wallace & Nurick, where he founded and chaired the firm's Technology & Intellectual Property Group. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Penn State Dickinson and Widener University Schools of Law.

Miles currently serves on several boards, including the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce's Business Diversity Advisory Committee, which he co-chaired for several years, the Central PA Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, where he co-chairs the Chapter's Diversity Committee, the Widener University Law School Diversity Advisory Board, the "Pathways to Success" Foundation (for minorities interested in pursuing legal careers), which he founded and currently chairs.

In 2009 he co-founded the Diversity and Inclusion Professionals of Central Pennsylvania, an organization that brings regional diversity professionals together to discuss the day-to-day implementation of diversity and inclusion programs. He is also a member of the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Children's Miracle Network Advisory Board (immediate past chair) and Executive Committee. He is also a volunteer with Downtown Daily Bread, and also volunteers with the local Street Law Program, working with the Milton Hershey School's Street Law Class and its High School Mock Trial Team.

Miles was awarded the 2009 Legacy Founder's Award as an Advocate of Diversity, and is the 2007 recipient of the Honorable Clarence C. Morrison Equal Professional Opportunity Award from Dauphin County Bar Association. The award is named for the County's first African-American judge. He has also been recognized by the Keystone Bar Association, Central Pennsylvania's Minority Bar Association.

A graduate of Bucknell University (B.A., cum laude) and George Washington University School of Law (J.D.), Frank and his wife Diana reside on their farm in Etters, Pennsylvania.

Local Poet Writes 2nd Book, March 18 Reading

Local writer and poet Tim Ward tells readers in his own words about his second book of poetry. Readers can hear Ward at York Arts Gallery March 18. As he has in the past, proceeds from book sales will go to support services in the community for those living with HIV/AIDS.

My first poetry collection, "Last Words: A Portrait of Gay Lust, Love, & Loss," was specifically designed for gay men. The book tells of a homosexual romance and related themes in poem after poem.

There are some poems in the new book that tell of gay sex, love, and romance, but there is also "a little of everything, for everybody," in my second collection. The main difference with the

continued on page 29

Calvin's
Salon & Boutique
"Over 25 years of doing it right"
939-4517
www.calvinssalonandboutique.com

- Downhome Herbals
- Aroma Therapy Candles
- Herbal Soap
- Herbal Oils
- . . . and more

The perfect gift for any occasion

Pennsylvania & International Hairstyling Champion

Style
Color
Cuts
Highlights
Foils
Perms
Color Corrections
Italian Color
Lowlights
Up Dos
Waxing

109 S. Front Street • Steelton, PA 17113
OPEN: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 7am-8pm; Sat: 7am-3pm

The Show Must Go On!

THE BLACK & WHITE PARTY GOES BROADWAY

New Venue for 2011: Zembo Shrine Auditorium & Event Center

2801 N. 3rd Street · Harrisburg, PA 17110

black white party

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

- Silent and Live Auctions
- Food from regional restaurants
- Two stages of entertainment
- Plenty of free convenient parking
- Much, much more!

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW:

www.theblackandwhiteparty.com

$25 in advance // $35 at the door

VIP are $100 in advance // $125 at the door

VIP includes an open bar, catered hors d'oeuvres, private VIP preferred seating area for the main stage show (9pm to 1am) and a VIP gift bag.

STARRING: MARTHA WASH

"It's Raining Men" 30th Anniversary

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

THE AIDS FUND of South Central Pennsylvania

Caring Together — An HIV Care Collaboration

Saturday, May 14th 6pm

ALSO APPEARING: GORDON MICHAELS · THE SHUEYS · DJ RYAN WALTER

Where Are We In 2011 with HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania

By Nicole Hamilton

More than 20 years after the HIV/AIDS epidemic in America rates of new infections are still on the rise. In Pennsylvania racial and ethnic minorities account for more than 60% of people living with HIV/AIDS but collectively account for 15% of the population. This could be attributed to people with HIV/AIDS living much longer with the availability of HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy).

The stigma surrounding HIV seems to be a major problem when it comes to HIV testing and treatment, although many agencies offer free/confidential and even anonymous testing, many people are still afraid that just walking through the door may cause them to be "labeled" as HIV positive. Hamilton Health Center's HOPE program wants the community to take pride in "knowing their status" as early detection is a key to survival; so many people are diagnosed late stage HIV or AIDS.

Hamilton Health Center has joined forces with Hershey Medical Center and The PA Department of Health to try and decrease this stigma by making HIV testing a routine part of health care, and many people have been receptive to it. However we realize the need to still work hard to encourage people in our community to get tested and know their status. There are many people who do not seek regular health care and may be at risk and we encourage those people to come in and get tested.

While men who have sex with men account for a large percentage of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS, heterosexual contact has become increasingly the number two rate of transmission with persons ages 20-44 being the highest risk group and those ages 44 or older as being the second highest among heterosexuals. Intravenous Drug Use (IDU) transmission represents a large risk group as well.

The PA Department of Health estimates there are a large number of persons living with HIV who are unaware of their status. In an effort to decrease this number, Hamilton Health Center has a host of programs aimed at educating the community and encouraging those who have not been tested or are at risk to come in and get tested. There are prevention programs for youth, women, and those that have been incarcerated. For more information on our programs or free/confidential or anonymous testing please call Hamilton Health Center's HOPE Program at 717-230-3949.

Encourage a friend, family member or loved one to get educated, get tested and know their status.

Law Office of
DEREK CORDIER, Esquire
Wills & Estates, Family Law and Bankruptcy

ESTATES:
Wills
Powers of Attorney
Probate

FAMILY LAW:
Divorce / Custody
Adoption
Partner Agreements
Name Changes

OTHER AREAS:
Bankruptcy
Contracts / Corporations

WHY A WILL IS A MUST:

1) In Pennsylvania, if you die without a Will or a spouse, your estate will pass to the surviving family line until your estate goes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. *(Title 20 Decedent, Estates and Fiduciaries, Chapter 21)*

2) Your surviving partner may end up with nothing and may even have to go to court to prove ownership of property that was rightfully theirs.

3) As for funeral arrangements, if you do not give specific instructions, your partner will not have any legal right to carry out your wishes and could even be barred from the funeral services. Funeral arrangements made in advance will add weight to your wishes.

4) Without a Will, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania decides who administers your Estate.

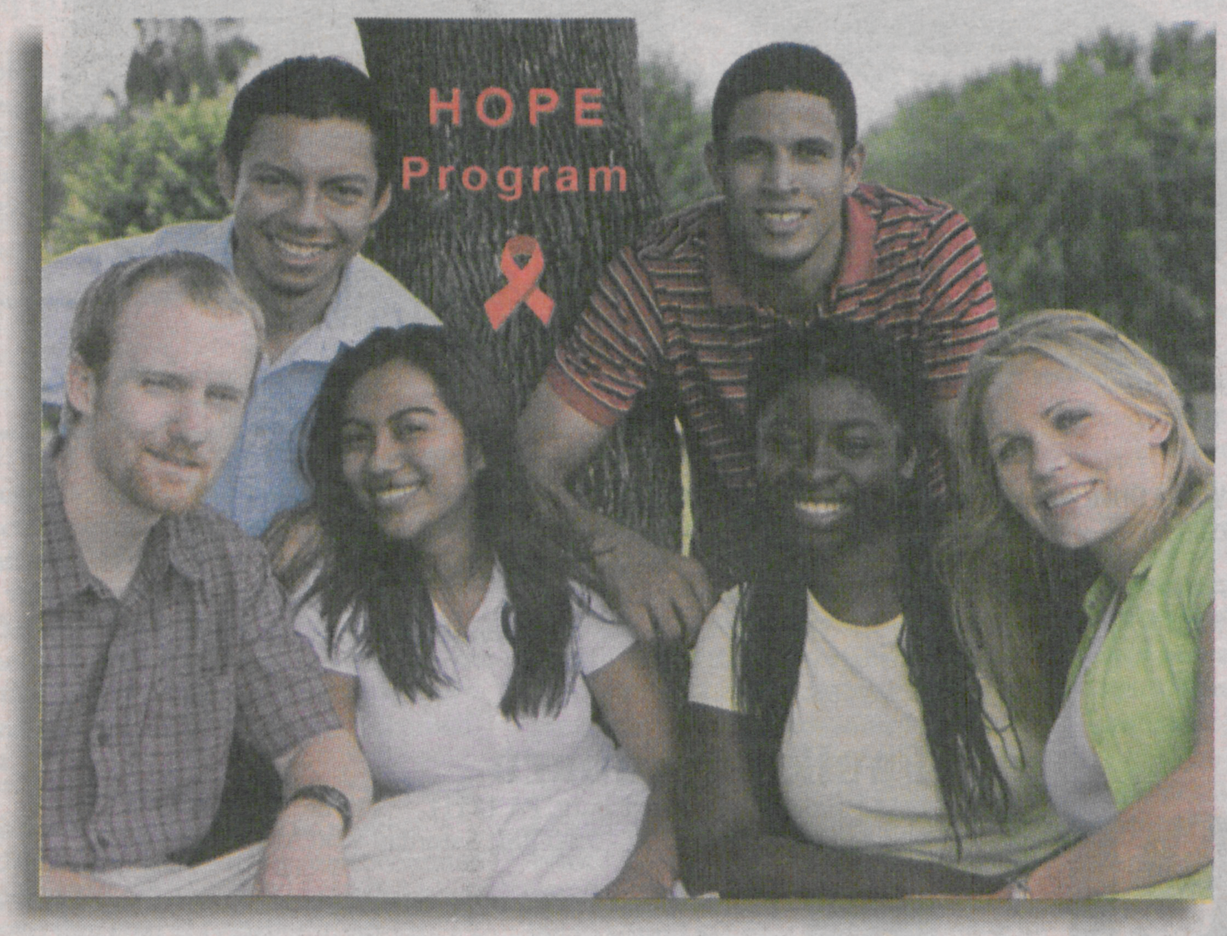
5) Please see our website for further information.

319 South Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17104
PHONE: 717-919-4002 FAX: 717-213-4984
www.derekjcordier.com • email: derek@derekjcordier.com

The information contained in this advertisement is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. The statements are general and the circumstances of each case may implicate different areas of the law not herein mentioned.

Hamilton Health Center Inc.

Hamilton's HOPE Program



- HIV Medical Services
- HIV Testing & Counseling
- Medication Adherence
- Dental & Nutritional Services
- Outreach & Support Services
- Free STD Clinic at Foose School

1821 Fulton Street Harrisburg

Call 717.230.3949

www.HamiltonHealthCenter.com

EVERY WAY IS A-OK

It's What Makes a Subaru, a Subaru.

2011 Subaru Forester. The small SUV unlike any other, with All-Wheel Drive and a 5-Star Goverment Crash Test Rating. Built to help you avoid accidents.

The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in backseat. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Adminstration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). See safercar.gov for details.

Think. Feel. Drive.

SUBARU.

www.subaru.com

Faulkner

TO BE SURE.

Faulkner Subaru

3233 Paxton Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111 **Phone 717-564-4545**

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

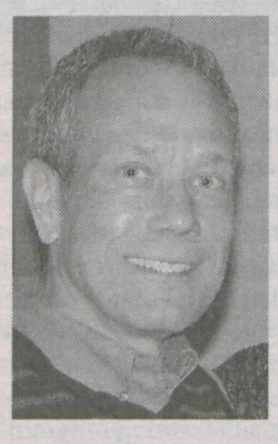
Evelyn Bertoni, Sales Representative

www.faulknersubaru.com

We are proud to support your active lifestyle, your community, and the organizations that are important to you.

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

The 2011 Elections – Where All Politics Is Local



By Steve Dorko, Chair

Despite the shellacking in 2010 and the stagnation of HB 300 in the state legislature, the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats (CRSD) will work to make the 2011 Municipal/ County Elections an opportunity for advancing equality for lgbt citizens. Even though Republican control of our state has the potential to provide obstacles in our progress toward equality, there is a small, but growing trend where municipalities are adopting local bans on lgbt discrimination. As of this writing, there are 18 municipalities across the state that protect lgbt employment and housing rights based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

In 2011 the Stonewall Democrats intend to determine which candidates in the Capital Region are our allies, ready to build coalitions in support of adopting local and county anti-discrimination bans where they do not exist.

The Stonewall Democrats will solicit candidates running in the May 17 Municipal/County Primary to complete the 2011 Stonewall Candidate Questionnaire. Candidates who return the completed 2011 Stonewall Candidate Questionnaire by the stated deadline will be invited to speak at a CRSD Membership Meeting on May 2, 2011. At this meeting CRSD members will have the opportunity to meet candidates who will be running for office in May. Also in conjunction with this meeting, the CRSD Executive Board will evaluate the candidates based on their 2011 Stonewall Candidate Questionnaire responses. Then the Board will make its recommendations to the general membership on which candidates to endorse. According to CRSD bylaws, every member in good standing (one whose dues is paid) will be given the opportunity to vote in the endorsement process.

Candidates endorsed by CRSD will be invited to participate in all of our 2011 events with our membership including the Harrisburg Pride parade, the CRSD sponsored Pride educational forum, and our Fall Membership meeting where Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts will be coordinated. CRSD will focus on electing endorsed candidates who support advancing lgbt equality in the November election.

In a 2007 poll conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research 66% of South Central PA respondents favored legislation banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. The 2011 Elections are an opportunity for the lgbt community to educate our local and county candidates that the majority in our region support equality. And that as elected officials they have the responsibility to represent the majority in promoting legislation that bans discrimination.

The Capital Region Stonewall Democrats need the lgbt community and our allies to continue advocating for county and municipal candidates supportive of lgbt equality. If you are already a CRSD member, be sure to renew your membership in 2011. If you are supportive of our mission, please consider becoming dues paying member, participating in the endorsement process, and actively attending our 2011 events.

Info: www.capitalstonewall.org

Local Poet cont'd from page 25

second book is that the poems cover a wide spectrum of life, the subject matters are relative to just about anybody. I also think the writing in my new collection is a little bit better, more professional and polished. When I look back on my first collection, the writing feels raw and primitive in the way it was written, but of course I'm still proud of it.

My first book was received very well with a tremendous amount of positive feedback from gay men. The most common response I heard was, "I did have that kind of love, that kind of romance in my life." I performed poems from the book at nearly two dozen events with the community.

I'm happy with my life and proud of what I do. I feel everything I do, whether it is within my writing or any other form of work or creativity, contributes to the healing of people, the community, the world. I do wish there was more of a vigilant concern about solving the HIV epidemic within the gay community. I lost someone I deeply loved due to AIDS, but that outcome is also the outcome of countless gay men whom are still alive and not infected with the virus. What I see too much are people sitting back and thinking the crisis mode has passed, but as long as gay men are still becoming infected with and then dying from AIDS, then we still have a crisis going on here.

Chamber on the move

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 6 Network Program

By Bill Krenz

Mark your calendars for April 6, as the chamber kicks off its education programming for 2011 with "Making Connections That Make a Difference". This event will be held in conjunction with the mixer at the Lancaster Arts Hotel. Learn helpful hints on how to network and grow your small business and make contacts. The program will be presented by Myles D. Miller, CEO & Founder of LEADUP & Milo Service Enterprises LLC.

During the one hour workshop, participants will learn methods to find, make and keep business connections. Everyone who attends will walk away with tools and techniques that can be applied to everyday business experiences. If you are interested in attending this workshop, visit our website at www.cpglcc.org. This event is free to members and is $5 for non-members. The workshop will be held from 6- 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Arts Hotel, 300 Harrisburg Avenue, Lancaster PA. Immediately following the workshop will be the chamber mixer where you can try out your new skills with other Chamber members and potential members. This after program is free to non-members who attend the workshop.

Annual Meeting

The chamber's annual meeting held on January 14, drew record attendance for the chamber. Corporate sponsorships included Highmark Blue Shield, The Hershey Company, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and Members 1st Federal Credit Union.

Additional sponsors were Club XS and MyCommunity Tickets. Floral sponsor was Jeffrey's Flowers, and Photography and Media sponsor was Posh Studio. Hershey's Frank Miles received the chamber's "Champion of Business Diversity Award". Sam McClure was keynote speaker, a longtime leader in the lgbt business movement.

The chamber thanked outgoing board members Hector Alvarez, George M. Fernandez and Dennis Wimer. The membership elected incoming board members Russell A. Boggs; Deborah L. Gable, Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania; Seth H. Hamill, Posh Studio; William N. Krenz, HP; Shannon L. Leonhard, PNC; Debra L. McClain, Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA, Inc; and Shannon R. Shupp, Met Life Securities, Inc. Frank Pizzoli, from Central Voice, announced a special offer to chamber members - a free line listing in the Central Voice's LGBT Pages upcoming publication for 2011.

Feb. 8

Laguna Pointe Salon & Day Spa

The chamber 2011 mixer schedule is established for the first half of the year. The Feb. 8 mixer was sponsored by a new member, Laguna Pointe Salon & Day Spa in Mechanicsburg, which saw record attendance.

March 10

Mitrani at Home & RSR Realtors

The upcoming March 10 mixer will be held at Mitrani at Home in Harrisburg, and is co-sponsored by Leah Muroff of RSR Realtors. This event starts at 6 p.m.

April 6

Lancaster Arts Hotel

The April 6 mixer will be held again at the Lancaster Arts Hotel in Lancaster, in conjunction with our education program on networking.

May 12

Paper Lion Gallery

The May 12 mixer is scheduled for the Paper Lion Gallery in Lemoyne. We can't wait to hear about the featured artists that Bill and Jim are arranging for this event. See the web site for further details and remember to RSVP via the web site www.cpglcc.org.

The GSA Leadership Summit, a project of the LGBT Community Center, was held on Feb. 25 at Dickinson College. Deborah Gable assisted with the planning of this event. Panelists included Sarah Harebo of the YWCA Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, and Steve Miner, local area lawyer.

The chamber and its members supported the LGBT Freedom Week event. Board representation was at the Feb. 9 Inter-faith breakfast at the MCC of the Spirit in Harrisburg. On Feb. 14, representatives were also at the press conference at the capitol, and at the Marriage Equality Rally held at the Dauphin County Court House.

The chamber members and some of the board will also be supporting the TransCentral Keystone Conference, being held from March 9-13 at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey.

Info: www.cpglcc.org

When Words Matter

(Contd from page 1)

parades around the state, working alongside a public official with anti-homosexual views "was quite a contrast," he said.

"Everyone has beliefs," Ardo said, but they must be "left at the door" when it comes to elected office.

Thompson speaks out

In a voicemail reply to an inquiry by Harrisburg resident Pierre MaCoy, Thompson denied claims she made derogatory comments about anyone.

"I can assure you that I am a woman who has a passion for all people, Mr. MaCoy," she said in an excerpt of the voicemail provided to ABC 27 News. "And under no circumstances did I make those, as you deem to be, derogatory comments in the [content or context] in which The Patriot-News is writing."

After the content of the voice mail became public, The Central Pennsylvania Business Journal in a Feb. 18 editorial, called on Thompson to resign, and Patriot-News Publisher John Kirkpatrick, in an editorial the following day, denied the mayor's accusations. "Mayor Thompson," Kirkpatrick wrote, "we were not out to 'get' you when you ran, and we are not today."

Regarding the alleged anti-Semitic remarks, Barry Morrison, Anti-Defamation League Regional Director, told CV the League had yet to receive a response from Thompson to a letter sent to her office demanding an explanation.

Morrison stressed that ADF's mission is to "facilitate and arrive at an understanding" when such events occur or are alleged to have happened.

Thompson received support from Rabbi Peter Kessler, president of the Rabbinical Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg.

"If she says she didn't say it, I believe her," Kessler told reporters. "I am not going to judge her. She is a God-fearing woman and very strong spiritually. I don't think that would allow her to be prejudiced. I really don't think she has anything against gay people or Jewish people."

Kessler, who has known Thompson for about three years, told CV he stands by that statement.

"The teachable moment here is that unless you witness a comment made by someone yourself [you can never know what was said,]" he said. "When someone denies saying something, you take them at their word."

A group now known as Restore Unity and Sanity in Harrisburg, or RUSHbg, will meet "to discuss what changes we seek" and alleged comments by the mayor and other leadership issues.

But Morrison said the ADF is not involved in that effort.

"Our letter was not accusatory. We have not spoken to her (Thompson). We hope to talk," he said.

In a news release, RUSHbg said it was motivated by Thompson's:

· Lack of appropriate progress concerning a major fiscal crisis.

· Unproductive claims that the situation was inherited and that it is not her responsibility to solve these problems.

· Disrespect for the public's right to know.

· Failure to coordinate with other stakeholders to seek and implement solutions.

· Inappropriate office environment and employee demands that have led to resignation of key staff.

· Inappropriate use of office time for prayer meetings and other faith-based activities.

· Inappropriate public behavior indicating lack of respect for constituents.

· Working behind locked doors.

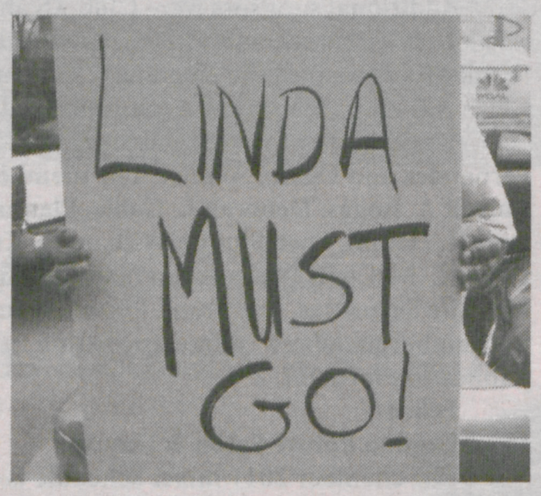
So, why did Ardo talk?

"This is not recrimination on my part," he told CV. "It's time for some honesty." And going public "was not easy for me," he said.

By speaking out, Ardo broke an unwritten rule that the working relationship between a media advisor and a client is private. "One expects a certain amount of confidentiality," he said. Ardo stressed that he made public his experiences with Thompson "in the interest of moving forward."

Moving Forward

Moving forward seems to be the consensus of the region's LGBT leaders based on responses to CV's request for reaction to the dizzying chain of events. We asked for reactions to the alleged anti-gay and anti-Semitic comments. We also asked



what the community saw as potential "good outcomes" and "teachable moments" could come from this crunch of words being lobbed back and forth. We may not know who said what to whom, but we do know a response that invites communication and cooperation when we read it.

Miller said "Being optimistic one can always envision good outcomes from such discourse. These revelations demonstrate to the public at-large that anti-gay discrimination is real and present. It reinforces the need to enact inclusive civil rights legislation and be vigilante in the society's attitude to strive for equal opportunity for everyone."

Regarding Thompson's alleged description of Miller as "that homosexual, evil little man," Miller wrote: "Such a comment is inappropriate in general and especially for an elected public official. It is perfectly fine to disagree with someone on an issue based upon factual data. To denigrate someone because they are gay and label them 'evil' or 'little' is unprofessional and rude."

Donna Rose, recently named executive director of the LGBT Community Center of Central PA, wrote: "I have not yet met Mayor Thompson so I have no personal basis upon which to gauge these specific allegations. My father provided much helpful advice to me over the years. His words of 'Believe nothing of what you hear and half of what you see' seems particularly appropriate in this context.

"Besides being a center of government to those who work for the City of Harrisburg, city hall is a workplace," Rose continued.

"There are standards of respect and dignity that all must observe in the workplace and responsibility to create and maintain that environment starts and ends at the top.

"The twin ideals of dignity and respect must become core competencies of 'diversity awareness' where there is, first, zero tolerance; and secondly, accountability at all levels. Nobody is exempt from that responsibility," she wrote.

Rose sees potential positive outcomes. "I'm not talking about symbolic, token, politically motivated efforts undertaken simply to repair public perceptions; I'm talking about substantive work that delves deeper than the symptoms and that get to the core issues themselves – like training, community engagement, relationship building. The LGBT Community Center of Central PA is one of many organizations dedicated to being a resource that provides support and guidance throughout the entire region, and that includes city hall. I hope to have a meeting with the mayor to discuss in more detail," Rose wrote.

"The mere fact that these allegations could be true highlights the need to do something to address what's happening at city hall before it gets worse," she wrote. "The city is losing valuable employees in critical roles at a time when we need strong committed leadership. As someone who lives and works here that concerns me greatly. I look to the mayor to take positive steps to demonstrate leadership both in terms of addressing the many critical issues that affect us all as well as in her role within city hall itself. The proof of her recognition of these issues as critical 'diversity' issues (not as personal or political issues), her commitment to addressing them, and her ability to lead in that capacity will be clear to all not in what she says next, but in what she does - or doesn't do next," Rose wrote.

"Diversity in the workplace…is recognition that to attract and attain the best and brightest talent you must foster an environment where difference is respected and encouraged, not simply tolerated," Rose wrote. In simplest terms, diversity is good for business," Rose advised.

The economic benefit of diversity can be seen in the annual Central PA Pride Festival. Last year's 3-day event attracted about 5,000 visitors from the region as as far away as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC; Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Northern Virginia. According to 2010 information, the event filled about 50 hotel rooms, $7,850 was donated to local organizations, 50 meals were donated to Bethesda Mission, and $2,500 was donated to the Easch-Potter Scholarship Fund.

"I would hope that if such biased dialogue has been occurring that this would be addressed appropriately and that apologies would be made," wrote former festival chair Jeff Clouser.

Like Rose, he hopes "some sort of sensitivity and diversity training program can be put in place so everyone could learn to work as a team and understand how people's differences can actually be an asset to the organization.

"Linda Thompson can not say that she supports diversity and then behave in a different manner that is contrary to that statement," Clouser said. His hope is that "this would be addressed and not pushed under the carpet and that she can assure everyone to trust that her administration is doing the right thing."

Discussion needed

Greg King, who has been involved in the region's gay community for many years, said he'd like to see a discussion develop on the mayor's position on LGBT rights and respect, and more widely a discussion on the general need for respect for those who are somehow different. "Perhaps this is an opportunity to hold her feet to the fire on these types of things," he said.

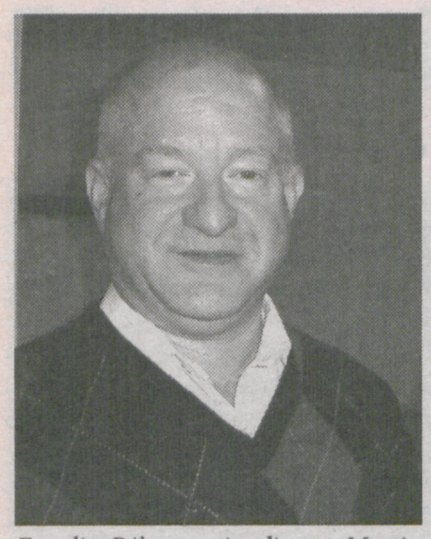
Ted Martin, of Equality Pennsylvania, said "it should be the goal of employers and employees alike to maintain and grow a workplace that is free from discrimination and harassment of any sort. The things that are being said about the mayor are both troubling and [provide] an opening to have a larger conversation on why diversity makes a workplace better and stronger."

But, Martin said, "let's avoid personalities as much as possible in this discussion and instead work very hard to send a constructive message to the leadership of Harrisburg that having many voices addressing the challenges makes it significantly more likely that you will find a good solution."

On Feb. 8, Thompson released a statement saying she has surrounded herself with a diverse group of people.

"I value my responsibility for diversity and will let my work, as the Mayor of the City of Harrisburg, prove that I am a Mayor for all people," she said. "The work that I have begun, the initiatives I have started, and the coalitions I have built around these initiatives represent diversity.

"Those who have a relationship with me, both personally and professionally, know that I care about our City and all people," she said. "Chuck Ardo may say what he wants, but the people elected me as mayor and I will faithfully discharge my duties and let the people decide."



Equality PA's executive director Martin

Issue Analysis:

What Can You Expect?

(Continued from page 1)

that as a sign that we are in the clear. For the first time in nearly a decade, the last election was not about lgbt people. It was about the economy and every poll has confirmed that fact. Anti-lgbt efforts do not create jobs, balance budgets or improve our quality of life here in Pennsylvania. That's the message from Equality Pennsylvania, and we plan to deliver it to every elected official we meet. Quite honestly, that should be everyone's message.

CV: How did the three organizations arrive at collaborating?

Martin: EP and ACLU-PA have been longtime allies in the efforts for lgbt equality. Last year, The Human Rights Campaign and EP formed a partnership and agreed to share a statewide organizer position. We all knew that change was coming in 2011, and so we decided it was important to get out there with the community to hear their concerns and talk about how we were ready to work with the new leadership soon to be in place in Harrisburg. In order to lead and make good choices, you have to know what your constituents want, and there is no better way than talking to them face-to-face.

CV: Can the lgbt community expect to be the target of anti-gay campaigns as in past elections?

Martin: Should we expect to be a target? Always. Our movement is relatively young and our efforts still have a long way to go. Until elected officials catch-up with changing public attitudes that say attacking us is wrong, then we simply can't let down our guard. Couple that with the fact that our opponents in the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the Pennsylvania Family Institute spend millions of dollars to maintain our status as second class citizens, and it is nearly impossible to not feel like a target. We should expect our status as targets to end when we see the ink drying on the bills that make us equal, and not before.

CV: What do people tell you they want or need as you host public meetings?

Martin: Many people ask us how they can help to make change. My response is usually pretty simple: GO and meet with your elected representative SEVERAL times and tell them about the inequality of your life. These are the people who make the rules and some still say nonsensical things like "there are no gay people in my district." Elected officials make the rules, and if you want them to change those rules to better your life then they have to hear from you. Attitudes change among elected officials when they hear the stories of real people. Your stories really do matter, and by the way we also pay their salaries. Perhaps we should get something out of the deal.

PA State Rep. Ron Buxton

Allyson Diane Hamm

Martin also said "Over the past several months, EP has worked very hard to sharpen our mission and become the voice of the lgbt community in the capital. We've made great strides. However, we recognize that this work is hard and difficult. In Pennsylvania it is still perfectly legal to fire someone for being openly lgbt or deny them public accommodations or evict them from their apartment. This is an affront to the very freedoms that make us Americans, and you can rest assured that EP won't stop talking about this injustice and fighting until it is corrected. We are committed to the long haul and won't rest until Pennsylvania lawmakers recognize the full scope of how thinly protected lgbt citizens really are when it comes to civil rights. Our mission remains to correct such injustices, and that's just what we intend to do.

EP has doubled the size of its board and will devote new grant funds to strengthen efforts.

"Enlarging our board was a vital step in making sure we hear new and important voices that represent as much of Pennsylvania as possible," said board president Brian Sims. New members are: Kevin Bennett, (Erie) GE Transportation Systems; Mary Isenhour, (Harrisburg), Isenhour Rooney Strategies LLC; Richard L. Levine, M.D. (Hershey), Hershey Medical Center; Adanjesus (AJ) Marin (Lancaster), SEIU, chairman, Lancaster City Human Relations Commission; Richard W. McCarty, Ph.D. (Erie), Mercyhurst College; Michael J. Testa (Pittsburgh), CEO, Testa Consulting Services, Inc.; Rev. Deryck Tines (Pittsburgh), pastor, chairman The ONE Life Project.

EP began the year with two new grants totaling $120,000 from the State Equality Fund and the SEIU. The $100,000 equality fund grant will support efforts to secure lgbt-inclusive municipal non-discrimination ordinances. Of the 2,566 cities, boroughs, and townships, there are 18 municipalities in the state with protection ordinances. The $20,000 SEIU grant will seed EP's newly-established 501 (C) 4 as they build a different model for how labor and the lgbt movement might work together.

For more state-specific analysis, see "The 2010 Elections: What it Means for Equality" on Page 3. Info: www.equalitypa.org

Lancaster Activist Responds to Commissioners

Adanjesus Marin, Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee Coordinator, and labor activist, has had his hands full in recent months. When last Nov. 17 Lancaster County commissioners voted to abolish its 40-year-old countywide Human Relations Ordinance, Marin organized "The Committee to Defend Civil Rights in Lancaster."

Calling the measure an effort at "cost containment," Commissioners Scott Martin and Dennis Stuckey approved abolishment. Commissioner Craig Lehman voted against closing down the operation. Marin was pivotal in galvanizing the community in its response.

Cost containment also plagues capital city Harrisburg. Will the city be the next local governmental entity to drop its human relations commission?

When Lancaster County commissioners vote out the human relations function Marin said the vote "once again demonstrates the inherent unity of the lgbt equality movement with the broader civil rights movement. This attack on all civil rights was in part a reaction to our community's demands for inclusion. The enemies of lgbt rights and civil rights are the same and as we move forward to win protection against lgbt discrimination we will continue to fight side by side to restore the protections taken away today."

More recently, Lancaster County commissioners acted to ensure workforce fairness by banning the use of discriminatory project labor agreements (PLAs) on all county-funded construction projects. Led by Commissioner Martin, the intention of Ordinance 99 is to ensure that all contractors could bid on construction work and that all workers could work on projects.

Under typical PLAs, contractors who are successful at winning a bid must use union workers only to complete the job. In the rare cases in which a contractor is allowed to use his own workers, those workers must pay union dues and follow union work rules. With the passage of Ordinance 99, every qualified contractor can compete for, and be awarded work, without any requirement that the workers must belong to a union.

Jack Zimmer, ABC Keystone President & CEO, reacted by saying "Lancaster County has a long tradition of hard working people who value fairness and the merit shop philosophy. I applaud the forward-thinking and actions of Commissioners Martin and Stuckey who saw fit to ensure that any worker, union or non- union, could work on Lancaster County tax-funded work." ABC Keystone represents over 700 construction-related firms locally and is part of a national association with 75 chapters representing more than 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms nationwide.

"This is the first time PLAs have been banned on the county level in Pennsylvania. This sends a strong statement that Lancaster County is open for business for all, and the needs of taxpayers regarding fiscal responsibility are respected. I sincerely hope other counties will follow suit. No matter what argument you put forth, it still comes down to fairness versus discrimination. Commissioners Martin and Stuckey made sure that message was loud and clear."

Marin disagrees.

"Scott Martin and Dennis Stuckey have once again struck a blow to the basic civil rights of the people of Lancaster County by eliminating Project Labor Agreements, taking away construction worker's right to form a union on county construction projects," Marin responded.

"A union is one of the most effective ways for workers to protect themselves from discrimination on the job, and most union contracts include protection against discrimination- often including protections against discrimination for sexual orientation and gender identity. While claiming to reduce discrimination, what this basic violation of the constitutional right to freely assemble and form organizations does is to give employers the unfettered ability to discriminate in hiring, assignment, and promotion on the job," Marin continued.

"While the commissioner's seem determined to strip the people of Lancaster County of our basic rights, they would do well to remember that this year the people of Lancaster will have the ability to strip out of office commissioner's who are not acting in the interest of voters," Marin concluded.

Regulate and Tax Gas Drilling?

By Frank Pizzoli

To regulate Marcellus Shale drilling you have to dig a little deeper.

To tax the digging you have to twist arms.

PA State Rep. Phyllis Mundy, D-Luzerne, recently reintroduced a package of bills hoping to protect Pennsylvania's environment, particularly its drinking water supply, from the effects of natural gas drilling.

"With thousands of gas wells expected to be drilled in the next decade, we have to make sure appropriate law and regulations are in place," Mundy said. "We must ensure that drillers do the job right; prevent problems to the extent possible and, when problems do occur, that they are dealt with effectively."

Regulating the gas drilling industry is a distinctly different enterprise than taxing the activity. Pennsylvania is the only natural gas drilling state without a taxing mechanism.

To that end, PA State Rep. Greg Vitali, D-Delaware, has unveiled his Marcellus Shale severance tax legislation with more than 50 co-sponsors.

Mundy's bills that could potentially regulate gas drilling are:

House Bill 233

HB 233 puts a one-year moratorium on the issuance of new natural gas drilling permits in the Marcellus Shale deposit. The bill gives the legislature time to enact necessary protections.

House Bill 230

HB 230 creates a buffer around drinking water supplies, prohibiting companies that use fracking or horizontal drilling from drilling wells underneath or within 2,500 feet of a primary source for a community water system, such as a lake or reservoir. The current restriction is only 100 feet.

House Bill 234

HB 234 creates an online tracking and reporting system for Marcellus Shale waste, such as drilling mud and chemically treated water used to fracture shale to release gas. It would require drillers to report the amount of waste generated by their wells and the facilities that accepted the waste for disposal, treatment, or reuse. The information would be posted on the state Department of Environmental Protection's website. House Bill 234 builds on Act 15 of 2010, which requires Marcellus Shale well operators to report well production data on a semi-annual basis to DEP.

House Bill 232

HB 232 restricts drilling and site preparation in floodplains, improve the disposal of waste water and better control erosion and sedimentation where gas is drilled in these areas. Additionally, the bill would impose a three-year moratorium on new permits to discharge drilling wastewater into surface waters. It would require DEP to evaluate alternatives for wastewater disposal and enforce those alternatives if they are environmentally sound.

The legislation would require DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Game Commission to do a joint study on the cumulative impact of gas and oil drilling in Pennsylvania. DEP would also be required to do site for erosion and sedimentation control permitting for all earth moving done for oil and gas drilling.

Vitali's legislation would tax gas drilling at 5%, slightly less than that imposed by West Virginia, and the revenue collected would be divided among the state's General Fund, local governments and a number of environmental uses.

Last January Vitali told Pennsylvania Independent he thought a tax was needed for two reasons. "One, I think it's the fair thing to do. I think gas drillers need to pay their fair share." All 16 other states that extract natural gas have a severance tax. "Two, we desperately need the revenue. We are dealing with a $4 billion to $5 billion budget shortfall in June as predicted by Auditor General [Jack]Wagner."

At the crossroads of regulating and taxing natural gas drilling a potential collision awaits all involved. If drilling is further regulated by the added protections Mundy's bills provides, how will those regulations be "paid for" if the drilling itself is not taxed? Mundy's executive director, Charles Quinnan, confirmed for Central Voice that there is no fiscal mechanism in her set of bills. Vitali's legislation calls for a severance tax but directs 33% to the General Fund distribution, 33.4% for environmental distribution, and 33.3% for local government distribution, although the bulk of that 1/3 goes to municipalities were drilling occurs.

Where Would Gas Drilling Tax Go?

Rate of Tax: -5% of the gross value of units severed at the wellhead +
-4.6¢ per unit severed [One unit = 1000 cubic feet of natural gas]

Distribution:

General Fund Distribution – 33.3%

32% to the General Fund

1.3% to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Environmental Distribution – 33.4%

28.8% to the Environmental Stewardship Fund

1.6% to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund

1.4% to the Fish and Boat Commission

0.8% to the DEP for dam removal, restoration, and repair projects

0.8% to the Game Commission

Local Government Distribution – 33.3%

32% to Local Governments

30% - Counties with producing sites

Priority to reconstruction, repair, maintenance of county roads and bridges

45% - Municipalities with producing sites

Shall not exceed 50% of Municipalities annual budget

Shall be used for:

Reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roadways and bridges; preservation of water supplies; maintenance of waste and sewer systems; preservation of surface waters.

15% - Municipalities with no producing sites located within Counties with producing sites

Shall not exceed 50% of the Municipalities annual budget

Shall be used for:

Reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roadways and bridges; preservation of water supplies; maintenance of waste and sewer systems; preservation of surface waters.

10% - Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

Distributed to fire and ambulance services in counties with producing sites

1.3% to the Conservation District Fund

Prepared by: Robert Fogel, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Greg Vitali

New Transgender Equality Report Issued

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality recently released a comprehensive new report, "Injustice at Every Turn," revealing the depth of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people in a wide range of areas, including education, health care, employment, and housing.

The study, based on the results from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS), was based on responses from over 6,450 participants. The NTDS is the first large-scale national study of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming Americans, and paints a more complete picture than any prior research to date.

Former Harrisburg area resident Mara Keisling, Executive Director of NCTE said, "Reading these results is heartbreaking on a personal level—each of these facts and figures represents pain and hardship endured by real people, every single day. This survey is a call to the conscience of every American who believes that everyone has the right to a fair chance to work hard, to have a roof overhead, and to support a family. Equality, not discrimination, is the ideal that Americans believe in, have fought for, and need to apply here."

Rea Carey, Executive Director of the Task Force said, "By shedding light on the discrimination that transgender Americans face, this study poses a challenge to us all. No one should be out of a job, living in poverty, or faced with sub-par health care simply because of their gender identity or expression. The scope of the problem is clear, and now we must come together to solve it."

Among key findings:

1. Respondents were nearly four times more likely to live in extreme poverty, with household income of less than $10,000.

2. Respondents were twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the population as a whole. Half of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment or other mistreatment in the workplace, and one in four were fired because of their gender identity or expression.

3. While discrimination was pervasive for the entire sample, it was particularly pronounced for people of color. African-American transgender respondents fared far worse than all others in many areas studied.

4. Housing discrimination was also common. 19% reported being refused a home or apartment and 11% reported being evicted because of their gender identity or expression. One in five respondents experienced homelessness because of their gender identity or expression.

5. An astonishing 41% of respondents reported attempting suicide, compared to only 1.6% of the general population.

6. Discrimination in health care and poor health outcomes were frequently experienced by respondents. 19% reported being refused care due to bias against transgender or gender-nonconforming people, with this figure even higher for respondents of color. Respondents also had over four times the national average of HIV infection.

7. Harassment by law enforcement was reported by 22% of respondents and nearly half were uncomfortable seeking police assistance.

8. Despite the hardships they often face, transgender and gender non-conforming persons persevere. Over 78% reported feeling more comfortable at work and their performance improving after transitioning, despite the same levels of harassment in the workplace.

PA Marriage Equality Legislation Proposed

On Valentine's Day, February 14, State Rep. Mark Cohen, D-Phila., joined state Sen. Daylin Leach and other colleagues and advocates for marriage equality and civil unions during a Capitol news conference.

"I am pleased to be here with Senator Daylin Leach and others committed to the advancement of human rights for all of Pennsylvania. Senator Leach deserves great praise for his courage in bringing the issue of marriage equality to the forefront. It is however, my political judgment after 37 years in the state House and 32 years of public support for various gay rights initiatives, and scores of conversations with fellow legislators that support for civil unions far exceeds the support that is now present for marriage equality legislation," said Cohen.

"Support for civil unions today does not preclude support for marriage equality now or in the future. The issue as I see it is whether we can grant meaningful rights and recognitions in the lgbt community within a reasonable period of time," said Cohen, Democratic chairman of the House Human Services Committee.

Cohen said 41 members of the House are co-sponsoring his proposal (H.B. 708) to bring civil unions for same sex couples to the Commonwealth. The bill would define a civil union as a union between two members of the same sex and would have all the same state laws applicable to that union as marriage.

He said it is increasingly clear that the votes do not exist in the foreseeable future to either constitutionally ban gay marriage in Pennsylvania, or to permit gay marriage in Pennsylvania. Civil unions represent the middle-of-the-road compromise position between constitutionally banning and permitting gay marriages.

"I believe that there is a reasonable chance that, with a strong organizational effort, we can enact civil union legislation by the end of 2012. Doing so would require the support of the vast majority in the House and Senate, and the backing of a substantial number of Republicans in each chamber. This is possible to achieve in a legislature that does not support same-sex marriage because civil unions are not marriage. They are not a form of marriage; they are not a second-class marriage. They are not a marriage period.

"What they are is a legal arrangement for committed gay and lesbian couples to handle relations with each other, with health care decisions, with joint property and with the outside world. Civil unions do not have the social significance of marriage, and they likely never will. They are however, an important step forward in the process of according gay and lesbian couples the respect as human beings that all people should have," Cohen said.

Sen. Daylin Leach intoducing marriage equality and civil unions On Valentine's Day.

Nothing in Cohen's bill would require any religion or any clergyman to perform any ceremony uniting people in a civil union. The legislation would merely offer committed gay couples the same legal rights that are bestowed upon married people, without giving them the status of marriage.

Cohen said polls shows support of civil unions at about 60 percent of the Pennsylvania population: 58 percent according to the Franklin & Marshall College poll in 2009 (with support of 73 percent in southeastern Pennsylvania suburbs, 76 percent in northeastern Pennsylvania and 61 percent in Philadelphia) and 61 percent statewide according to Muhlenberg College in 2009.

"I look forward to working with people around the state who support moving forward in this legislative session for greater human rights for committed couples in the lgbt community. Together we can make great strides forward," Cohen said.

Similar events took place all over the country.

"Since 2001, Marriage Equality USA chapters have engaged in annual marriage counter actions to render visible the discrimination that is enforced every day and to highlight the need to overturn discriminatory laws. It is an affront to our basic dignity as fellow human beings when same-sex couples are turned away from the marriage counter, but it gives us the opportunity to tell our stories and show that we live in every community and want to honor and protect our families like everyone else," said Molly McKay.

"Whether we are married, domestic partners, in a civil union, or legal strangers under our particular state's law, all same-sex couples are denied the 1,138 federal rights of marriage," said Robin McGehee, GetEqual. "We are joining Marriage Equality USA to urge President Obama, Congress, and all states with discriminatory laws on their books to stand for justice and equality for all people, as the Constitution requires, and work together to uphold the American tradition of fairness and equality by ending marriage discrimination."

LGBT community center coalition

Local Students Gear Up for Day of Silence

Louis Marven
LGBT Community Center

April 15, 2011, hundreds of students in the central Pennsylvania region will participate in an annual Day of Silence. These students will be joining others around the country in drawing attention to the silence faced by many lgbtq students because of name-calling, bullying, and harassment.

Day of Silence was founded in 1996 and, now operated by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), has become the largest student-led action toward creating safer schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. At dayofsilence.org, GSA members and other Day of Silence participants can find templates for creating DoS-themed buttons and posters, tips on working with administration and teachers to make sure Day of Silence is a positive experience that doesn't disrupt educational processes, student stories from past Days of Silence, and more.

Last year, students in central Pennsylvania observed Day of Silence in a variety of ways. Some used it as an opportunity to work with other student clubs to bring attention to the experiences of lgbtq students, some used it as an opportunity to engage the larger student population that doesn't participate in the GSA by providing buttons and information on how to participate, and others held community events in conjunction with their vow of silence to make sure that an opportunity to educate even outside the school walls was not lost.

There are countless ways to facilitate a Day of Silence, but here are some helpful tips to keep in mind:

Day of Silence is a positive student-led initiative that is not meant to be used to inhibit the learning process. Let your teachers know ahead of time that you would like to participate, and if it's impossible for you to do so, don't.

It can be an emotional experience to participate in Day of Silence, so if you are organizing the day in your school, consider creating space for participants to share their experiences and debrief the day. These sorts of events are sometimes known as a "Breaking the Silence" party.

Make sure that the greater student population can learn about why people are taking a vow of silence. Consider having participants carrying "speaking cards" with them that explain why Day of Silence is important.

For adults looking to support this kind of student-led initiative locally, there are a number of ways you can help. Know your district's nondiscrimination policy, and make sure it enumerates protected classes, and that those classes include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Find out if your local representatives support safe-schools legislation that includes lgbtq students. If they are, make sure to thank and encourage them; if they are not, consider organizing a group of local citizens to ask them to support such legislation. Also consider making a donation to a local group that supports lgbtq students, like Common Roads, youth programming arm of the LGBT Community Center.

Louie Marven is the director of education & youth services for the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania.

Stanford Students Fight ROTC Return

Several student organizations have launched a new campaign against the return of ROTC to college campuses in light of the repeal of DADT due to their policy of discrimination towards transgender service members.

The National Marriage Boycott, a youth-led lgbt rights organization, has called for youth activists on college campuses that include gender identity in their non-discrimination clause to oppose the introduction or return of ROTC to their institutions. On the campus of Stanford University "Students for Queer Liberation", a rights group, is currently lobbying Stanford administration and organizing against the return of ROTC to campus.

"Now, more than ever, is the time for college students across the country to take a stand and organize against transgender discrimination, an issue that has been historically ignored by the mainstream gay rights agenda" said Alok Vaid-Menon, president of Stanford Students for Queer Liberation. "A re-introduction of ROTC on college campuses (including Stanford, Harvard, and Columbia) that include 'gender identity' in their non-discrimination clause is a fundamental violation of policy and an endorsement of discrimination."

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission issued the recommendation of a ban on transgender service member as part of a draft report on diversity in the services. The final report is due to lawmakers this spring and commission members are meeting this week in Virginia to debate final changes.

This treatment of transgender service members was recently highlighted in the Washington Post article titled "Transgender Vets Want Military Access For Own" telling the story of First Class Autumn Sandeen and her trials as a trans-women veteran.

HOMEOWNERS 62 AND OLDER
Who Would Like to Remain in Their Homes
FHA-Insured - Tax Free Money - No Monthly Payments
Gain Access to 50% or more of your home's value

PEACE OF MIND CAN BE YOURS
Pay off mortgages, home equity loans, car loans and credit cards
Pay property and school taxes, utility bills, and prescriptions
Use the money any way you desire – Retire Earlier

AS SEEN ON TV

Reverse Mortgages of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Inc. NMLS ID# 138462

CALL FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACKET 1-888-748-9300

Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Banking and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance

Now that you have elected them...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE?

"Together we are the SOLUTION"

ATTENTION ALL RECIPIENTS OF DE PUY

DEFECTIVE HIP IMPLANTS

Don't rely on the company who gave you a potentially defective hip implant to advise you on your legal rights!

DePuy Orthopaedics, a division of **Johnson & Johnson**, has issued a worldwide recall of it's **ASR™ Acetabular System for Total Hip Replacement**, after determining that these hip implants may fail at an alarming rate. The "metal-on-metal" composition of these implants can release particles into the patient, potentially causing serious and painful reactions — sometimes requiring complete revision surgery.

Reportedly, Johnson & Johnson has been seeking medical releases from recipients so that their claims adjustors can speak with you directly and possibly take down statements without your having counsel present – an unwise action for any recipient to do.

Having a defective hip implant in your body clearly demands having your own lawyer. You must be very cautious with dealing with the manufacturer or its representative without proper legal representation.

If you have a DePuy ASR™ product, please call us immediately, as there are time limits for filing a claim. You might already have problems with the implant about which you are unaware, so please contact us — and certainly do not forfeit your legal rights without talking to us.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG P.C. LAW OFFICES
ASBESTOS · DRUGS/MEDICAL DEVICES · ENVIRONMENTAL · NEGLIGENCE

700 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, NY 10003
BRANCH OFFICES IN NEW JERSEY, CALIFORNIA & COLORADO
1.888.411.LAWS · www.weitzlux.com

We are also investigating
ZIMMER NEXGEN HIGH FLEX KNEE INJURIES

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office.

National Parks of the West
14-Day Escorted Tour from $2,995*

Featuring 6 National Parks—Glacier, Waterton, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Arches & Canyonlands—and travel on Amtrak's *Empire Builder* and *California Zephyr*!

Receive $50 per person towards connecting transportation to the tour

June 28 – July 11
August 10 – 23

VACATIONS BY RAIL
*per person based on double occupancy

1-877-929-7245 | vacationsbyrail.com

classifieds

ADOPTION OR PERSONALS
PREGNANT? WHY ANSWER ONLY ONE ADOPTION AD... FOREVER FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION OFFERS YOU MANY DIFFERENT FAMILIES/ OPTIONS TO CONSIDER. CALL JOY: 866-922-3678 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.

ADOPTION OR PERSONALS
UNIQUE ADOPTIONS. LET US HELP! PERSONALIZED ADOPTION PLANS. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HOUSING RELOCATION AND MORE. GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE? YOU DESERVE THE BEST. CALL US FIRST! 1-888-637-8200 24-HOURS HOTLINE.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
DO YOU EARN $800 IN A DAY? YOUR OWN LOCAL CANDY ROUTE! 25 MACHINES AND CANDY ALL FOR $9995. 877-915-8222 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
FRAC SAND HAULERS WITH COMPLETE RIGS ONLY. TONS OF RUNS IN WARM, FLAT, FRIENDLY AND PROSPEROUS TEXAS! GREAT COMPANY, PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS. 817-769-7621, 817-769-7713

HELP WANTED DRIVER
TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED! 2011 PAY RAISE! UP TO $.52 PER MILE! HOME WEEKENDS! EXCELLENT BENEFITS! NEW EQUIPMENT! HEARTLAND EXPRESS 1-800-441-4953 WWW.HEARTLANDEXPRESS.COM

HELP WANTED DRIVER
DRIVER- $.33/MILE TO $.42/MILE BASED ON LENGTH OF HAUL, PLUS $.02/MILE SAFETY BONUS PAID QUARTERLY. VAN & REFRIGERATED. CDL-A W/3 MOS CURRENT OTR EXPERIENCE. 800-414-9569. WWW.DRIVEKNIGHT.COM

HELP WANTED DRIVER
EXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS NEEDED! EXCELLENT HOME TIME! *MORE $$$ *PLENTY OF MILES. *STEADY FREIGHT. CALL PRIME TODAY! 1-800-277-0212 WWW.PRIMEINC.COM

HELP WANTED DRIVER
DRIVERS- 100% TUITION PAID CDL TRAINING! NO CREDIT CHECK, NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! TRAINERS EARN $.49/MILE! 888-417-7564 CRST EXPEDITED WWW.JOINCRST.COM

HELP WANTED DRIVER
EARN A SOLID PAYCHECK AT WESTERN! VAN-AVG PAY AS HIGH AS $0.35CPM. FLATBED-AVG PAY AS HIGH AS $0.39CPM BOTH INCLUDING BONUSES AND EXTRA PAY ITEMS. PLUS NEW EQUIPMENT AND GREAT HOME TIME. CDL-A,6MO.OTR. 888-801-5295

HELP WANTED DRIVER
CDL-A DRIVERS: DRIVE FOR THE BEST! TOP EQUIPMENT & PAY. $1000 SIGN-ON BONUS! EXCELLENT FLEET MANAGERS. 1YR. OTR EXP. BOYD BROS. TRANSPORTATION 800-543-8923

LAND FOR SALE
UPSTATE NEW YORK LAND BARGAINS ATV & SNOWMOBILE TRAILS. STATE GAME LANDS. 19 ACRES VALLEY VIEWS- $29,995. 5 ACRES CAMP LOT- $15,995. ADIRONDACK RIVER-WAS: $119,995. NOW: $69,995. 24 ACRES-TUG HILL-$17,995. SCHEDULING LAND TOURS 7DAYS/ WEEK. CALL 800-229-7843 OR VISIT WWW.LANDANDCAMPS.COM

LAND FOR SALE
UPSTATE NY LAND BARGAINS 7.5 ACRES W/ BEAUTIFUL TROUT STREAM FRONTAGE - $29,995. 23 ACRES W/ ROAD & UTILITIES $39,995. 7.75 ACRES W/ BEAUTIFUL VIEWS, ROAD & UTILITIES - $19,995. FINANCING AVAILABLE. CALL 800-229-7843 OR VISIT WWW.LANDANDCAMPS.COM

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
"FEATHERWEIGHT/DELUXE MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS" ABSOLUTELY AT NO COST TO YOU IF ELIGIBLE!! BACK BRACES, ARTHRITIS PUMPS TO EASE THE PAIN. MEDICARE, HMO'S & PRIVATE INSURANCE ACCEPTED. 1-800-693-8896

MISCELLANEOUS
ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE FROM HOME. *MEDICAL, *BUSINESS, *PARALEGAL, *COMPUTERS, *CRIMINAL JUSTICE. JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE. COMPUTER AVAILABLE. FINANCIAL AID IF QUALIFIED. CALL 888-220-3984. WWW.CENTURAONLINE.COM

MISCELLANEOUS
AIRLINES ARE HIRING- TRAIN FOR HIGH PAYING AVIATION MAINTENANCE CAREER. FAA APPROVED PROGRAM. FINANCIAL AID IF QUALIFIED - HOUSING AVAILABLE. CALL AVIATION INSTITUTE OF MAINTENANCE (888)834-9715

VACATION RENTALS
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. BEST SELECTION OF AFFORDABLE RENTALS. FULL/ PARTIAL WEEKS. CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE. OPEN DAILY. HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE. 1-800-638-2102 ONLINE RESERVATIONS: WWW.HOLIDAYOC.COM

HELP WANTED DRIVER
LOCAL SHUTTLE DRIVERS NEEDED! MOUNTAIN TOP, PA. HOME DAILY, MULTIPLE SHIFTS, WEEKLY OT AVAILABLE. CLASS-A CDL AND 6 MONTHS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. CALL TIM @ 570-474-3190

VACATIONS/TRAVEL
A GREAT VACATION VALUE!! CLEAN, SAFE, & ONLY A TANK AWAY. AMERICA'S GREATEST FAMILY RESORT, OCEAN CITY, NJ (800)786-8884 OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.ACADEMYREALESTATE.COM

Want to place a classified ad?
STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK
RUN YOUR AD All Across Pennsylvania FOR ONLY $475
That's right -- a 25-word classified ad costs only $475 to run once in 160 newspapers throughout Pennsylvania with a circulation of 2.5 million.
One call all it takes. We'll do the rest.
CALL 717-703-3020

WET BASEMENTS STINK !!

Mold, mildew and water leakage into your basement causes health and foundation damage. What can be done to fix the problem? Allstate American Waterproofing is an honest, hardworking local company. We will give you a **FREE** evaluation and estimate and a fair price. We have repaired thousands of basements in the area; we can provide local references. When your neighbors needed waterproofing, they called Allstate American. Why don't you? Call now to receive a 20% discount with your **FREE ESTIMATE**. MHIC#36672

CALL 1 800 420 7783 NOW!
www.dryfloor.com

Outer Banks, NC Vacation Homes!

Brindley Beach VACATIONS & SALES

Over 500 Vacation Homes, from Duck to Corolla, Oceanfront to Soundfront, Private Pools, Hot Tubs, Pets and More...

Book Online at **www.brindleybeach.com**
1-877-642-3224
"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"

Do The Dead Speak?

John Edward *Author & Psychic Medium* **LIVE!**

He has captivated audiences worldwide on his internationally acclaimed talk shows, "Crossing Over" & "Cross Country". Don't miss this intimate evening with John Edward.

Get Tickets! *... who will be there for you?*

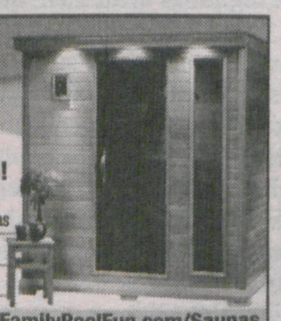
Harrisburg, PA Friday, Aug. 19th - 7pm
Whitaker Center For Sci & Arts

Reading not guaranteed

Get Tickets at: **www.JohnEdward.net** *or* call: **717-214-2787**

Say **"Good-Bye"**
to aches, pains, stress & unwanted pounds

Melt it all away in your very own Sauna!



BW Inc., MN (A+ BBB Rating) In Business Since 1990

- **Cozy warmth** 1, 2 or 3 person Saunas
- **Free Shipping**
- **Simple Setup**
- **Low Sale Prices**

EXCLUSIVE LIFETIME WARRANTY

www.FamilyPoolFun.com/Saunas

Call Now... 800-950-2210

Singer-Songwriter Gordon Lightfoot at Hershey Theatre

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down…" are lyrics from one of his most famous ballads, but they just as easily could be used to describe the phenomenal career of iconic singer-songwriter, Gordon Lightfoot. March 25 Lightfoot will perform at the Hershey Theatre.

Cover versions of his songs were recorded by artists such as Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley, until 1971 when his own version of "If You Could Read My Mind" became a Top Ten hit. In 1974, his classic single, Sundown, went to No.1 on the American charts, followed two years later by The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, inspired by a Newsweek magazine article; it reached No. 2 on the U.S. Billboard charts.

Lightfoot's live performances never disappoint the legions of devoted fans who consistently pack concert halls for a chance to hear the beloved troubadour deliver the time-defying songs that have earned him an international reputation as one of the most anticipated live performers.

During his illustrious career he has won 15 Juno Awards and been nominated for 5 Grammy Awards. He was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1986 and the Canadian Country Music Hall Of Fame in 2001. In May 2003 was made a Companion of the Order of Canada and is also a member of the Order of Ontario, and in 2004 was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Tickets: $59, $49, $39, $29 (processing fees apply and eight ticket limit) and are available at Hershey Theatre Box Office, by phone at 717-534-3405, online at HersheyTheatre.com. The wristband policy will be in effect for this concert. Two hours prior to the on-sale, fans are directed in front of Hershey Theatre Box Office, where they are issued a numbered wristband. Wristbands are available for one hour, and at the conclusion of that hour, a selected fan will randomly select a wristband that will determine the line order. For example: if 100 wristbands are issued during that hour and the number 50 is selected, the person wearing wristband 50 will be the first person in line. Numbers 51 to 100 will proceed in line behind, followed by numbers 1 through 49. Once the line is in place, everyone arriving after the wristbands were issued will be escorted to the end of the numbered line.

John Wright Photography

Elegant Portraits
Documenting a time in your life!
Studio and location photography
Carlisle, PA
717.802.1562
john@JHWphoto.com • JHWphoto.com

RSR Realtors®
Residential | Commercial | Appraisals
3 Lemoyne Drive, Suite 100 | Lemoyne, PA 17043

Leah B. Muroff
GRI, ABR, SRES, Realtor®

Phone: (717) 763-1212 ext. 162
Fax: (717) 763-1656
Direct: (717) 579-0010
Email: Leah@hbgrealestateinfo.com
Website: Hbgrealestateinfo.com

MEMBER

CLASSIC HARDSCAPE/
LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Patios • Walls • Outdoor Kitchens
Landscaping • Lawncare

For Prompt, professional service call
Bill 717.623.1717 Patrick
www.classicgroundskeeping.com

RE/MAX
1st Advantage
Brad Cleland
Sales Associate
6375 Mercury Drive
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050
Office: (717) 591-5555
Direct: (717) 591-7725
Fax: (717) 591-7273
Cell: (717) 319-2831
bradleycleland@hotmail.com
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

308 Chestnut St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Trophy House

717-238-2838
www.trophyhouseharrisburg.com
Mary Jane Wertz
Proprietor

Celebrate Success with purchases of trophies, awards, plaques and signs, custom engraved with logos, symbols or messages of appreciation, from the Trophy House. Please, stop by or visit the website.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

MENTION THIS AD AND
RECEIVE 10% OFF

128 East Grant Street, Suite 101
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-299-6188
Fax: 717-299-6277

LEFEVRE FUNK
ARCHITECTS INC

Specializing in:
Architecture, Planning
Commercial • Retail • Hospitality
Historic Rehab • LEED Sustainable Design
www.lefevrefunk.com

Dunn Law
3508 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Leo L. Dunn

Wills
Estates
Cohabitation Agreements
Conservation & Farmland
Preservation Easements

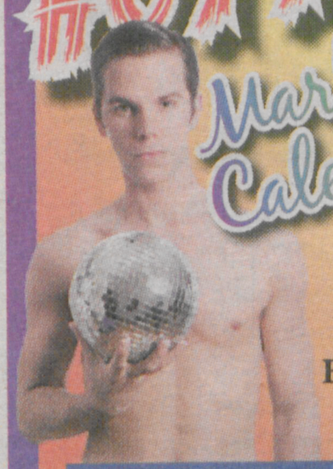
Telephone 717-503-1207
Facsimile 717-232-7022
leo@leodunnlaw.com
www.leodunnlaw.com

DJ Steve Hi-Fi
A DJ for Your Special Event
• Current Dance Music
• Retro Classics
• Mix Meister 9
DJAYHIFI@AOL.COM • 717.856.3115

DON'T ASK.
JUST .ning ME.
thecentralvoice.ning.com

Harrisburg's HOTTEST Night Spot!

Harrisburg Magazine's *"Simply the Best"*
Alternative Bar Nine Years in a Row!



Mark Your Calendar ...

MARCH 4
FLASHBACK FRIDAY
Retro Music with DJ Barry B

MARCH 8
CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS
at Stallions All Night

MARCH 17
ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
Bar Opens at 7 pm ♣ Dance Floor 10 pm-2 am

MARCH 19 • GUEST DJ ATOM BOMB

MARCH 25
THE QUEENS OF STALLIONS!
Drag Show starts at 11 pm
featuring Alicia, Aurora, Sofanda and many more

APRIL 22
THE QUEENS OF STALLIONS RETURN!
Drag Show starts at 11 pm
featuring Alicia, Aurora, Sofanda and many more

STALLIONS
ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX
706 North 3rd St., Harrisburg
Open Every Night 7 pm-2 am
Happy Hour 7-9 pm Every Night
Nightly Drink Specials 9 pm-Midnight
717.232.3060
www.stallionsclub.com

APRIL 15 & 16
BEACH PARTY WEEKEND
Dress in your favorite beach attire!
APRIL 15 • DJ Barry B
APRIL 16 • Atom Bomb

MONDAY NIGHTS
Movie Night with Brian C
FREE Popcorn & Movie
starting 9 pm

TUESDAY NIGHTS
Trivia 9 pm
Win Prizes & Giveaways

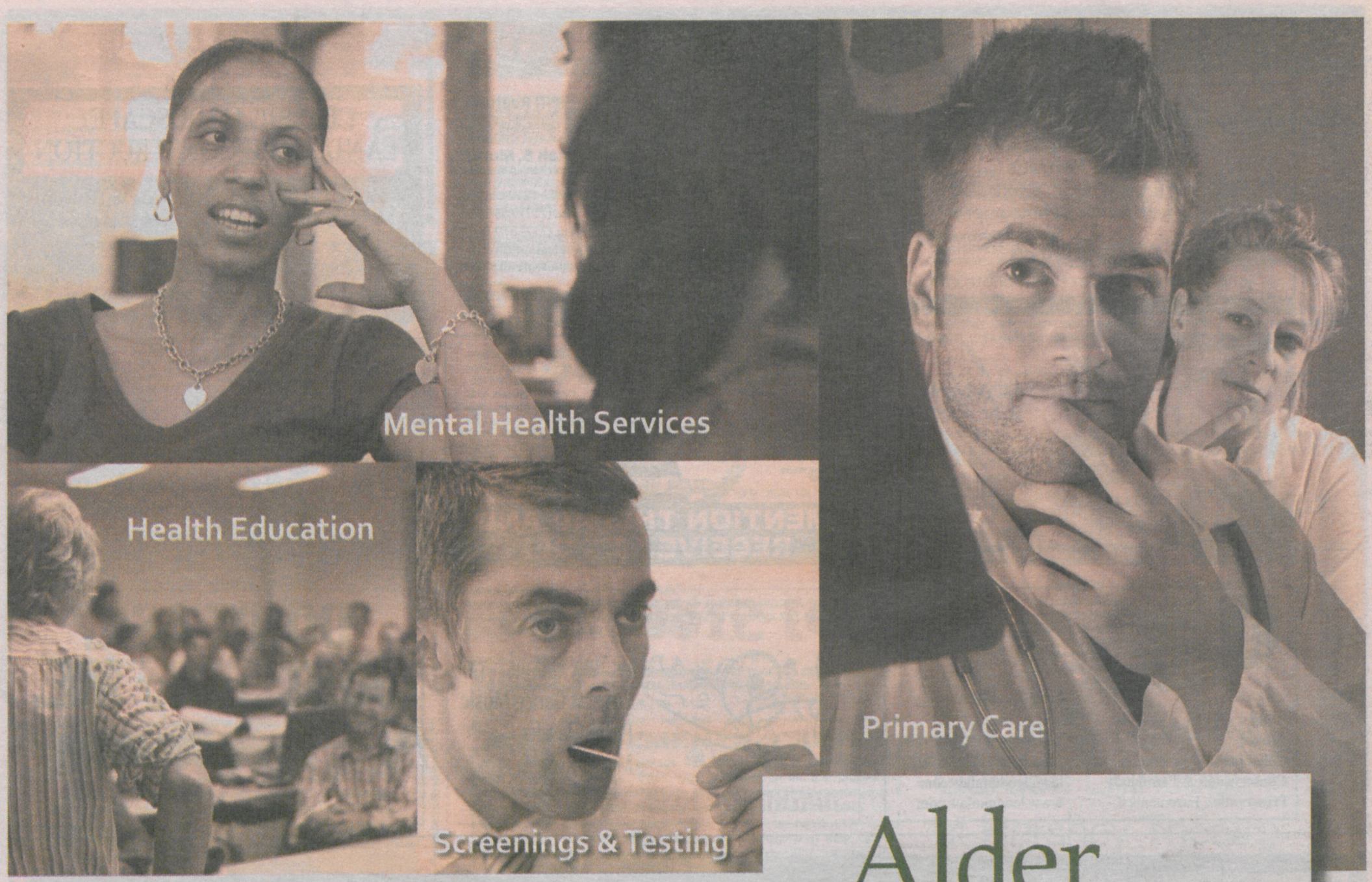
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Karaoke! 10 pm-2 am

THURSDAY NIGHTS
Big Mouth Bingo
with Biscuit 8 pm

FRIDAY NIGHTS
All Request Night
on the dance floor 10 pm

SATURDAY NIGHTS
Weekend Dance Party
10 pm-2 am

SUNDAY NIGHTS
Free Pool Night - All Night



How often do you think about your health?

We think about it ***every day.***

Alder Health Services

Health Services and Programs dedicated to the unique needs of South Central Pennsylvania's LGBT Community.

Mental Health Services
Primary Care
HIV/AIDS Services
Screenings and Testing
Health Education

For more information call **1.800.867.1550**
or visit **www.ALDERHEALTH.org**

Alder Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Alliance) is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and those struggling with addiction in the South Central Pennsylvania region. The organization provides residents of the community with: • HIV/AIDS Services and Prevention Programming • Primary Medical Care - Starting in the summer of 2011 • Mental Health Counseling Services • STD Screening and Treatment • HIV Testing • Community Health Education Forums and Workshops
All HIV-related services are provided at no-cost to the participant. Primary medical care and mental health counseling services are available on a sliding fee scale. While many insurance plans are accepted, insurance is not necessary to access the services of Alder Health.